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LATIN AMERICA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

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CONTADORA, SUPPORT GROUP DOCUMENT ISSUED

PA141323 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1207 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] This morning we have a PRENSA LATINA report dated in Buenos Aires. The Contadora and Support Groups foreign ministers signed the document that set forth the conclusions on the first work session on the Central American conflict yesterday.

Although according to the local Foreign Ministry the document will be distributed today, PRENSA LATINA had access to a copy and can offer Extra newscast its complete text.

The Contadora and Support Groups' foreign ministers, who met in Buenos Aires on 13 April 1987, declare:

1. They ratify to the international community that the Central American crisis is a conflict which threatens the entire region and makes security, stability, and the coexistence of our peoples. [sentence as heard]

2. They view with concern the paralysis of the negotiating process to sign the Contadora document for peace and cooperation in Central America.

3. In that context, they express satisfaction over two auspicious developments; the upcoming meeting of the five Central American presidents in Esquipulas and the peace proposal of Costs Rican President Oscar Arias.

4. Likewise, they understand that said proposal is part of the desire to reactivate the Contadora negotiating process, as expressed in the Costa Rican Government's letter dated 8 April, which, through its foreign minister, was sent to the Contadora and Support Groups. One of its two paragraphs states:

Due to these circumstances, Costa Rica wishes to express to the Contadora and Support Groups foreign ministers, as it has already pointed out on various occasions, that this proposal is fully included in the overall Contadora negotiating effort and that one of its principal objectives is precisely the creation of a number of conditions that, in short, precisely determined terms, will allow a return to the negotiation of the document and its satisfactory completion in a framework of democracy, peace, freedom, and security in each of the Central American states.

5. In this regard, the Costa Rican Government wishes to express that during the Esquipulas presidential meeting it will promote an agreement of the five countries and the signing of the proposal or will resume the negotiation of the document as a natural consequence of the execution of the Costa Rican plan.

6. At the same time, the Contadora and Support Groups express their willingness to cooperate actively in the preparation of the Esquipulas meeting through a process of information and consultation, for which they have agreed to ask Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo to analyze the mechanisms leading to this aim.

7. Persuaded that there is a propitious climate for dialogue between the Central Americans and that the time before the Esquipulas summit can lead to circumstances that can obstruct this climate, they urge the countries directly or indirectly involved in the conflict to abstain from any action, forceful action, or intimidation that will affect the result of the upcoming Esquipulas meeting.

8. Finally, they agree to meet after the Esquipulas meeting, independent of meetings resulting as a consequence of the aforementioned initiatives, to analyze the Esquipulas results and examine the forms of cooperation that will help to implement the initiatives that will be adopted at the summit of Central American presidents.

TRENDS WITHIN 'GROUP OF EIGHT' ANALYZED

PY210230 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Apr 87 p A 9

[By Gilberto Dimenstein]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the "Group of Eight" yesterday analyzed the creation of a Latin American parliament and a technology club, which will seek to expedite the flow of information into Latin America. Brazil has not endorsed the idea of a Latin American parliament, which was defended by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. "Parliaments must be created by the legislative, rather than the executive branch," Minister Abreu Sodre stated. On 16 April the foreign ministers will begin drawing up a document containing the decisions made during the meeting.

The ministers are the members of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) and of the Contadora Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay). On a rainy day with a temperature of 4 degrees centigrade, a small ship took the ministers to the Tronador Hotel, which is located on an island in Bariloche, southern Argentina. There were disagreements, though, despite the warm atmosphere and the politeness.

Until yesterday, the Argentine "technological club" initiative had received general support. It is a simple idea: A Latin American technology information exchange center, to which all countries will have access. In addition, Argentina voiced its "concern" over the ecological balance and over satellite communications on the continent.

Brazil's interest in Mexico has been reflected by the private meetings Brazilian delegation members have held with their Mexican counterparts. Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda has proposed a meeting of Latin American presidents to analyze ways of cooperation. In principle, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry maintains that this type of meeting should be held only with a clearly established agenda. It is believed that what Mexico might really be looking for is a way to show its people a gesture of independence from the United States.

What Itamaraty fears is that Argentina and Mexico might try to turn the "Group of Eight" into a sort of directorate for Latin America, which will not include Paraguay, where Brazil has strategic interests. Chile will not be included either. Despite disagreements over political matters, Brazil and Chile maintain important commercial ties.

As Itamaraty sees it, Mexico wants to appear as an interdependent country, while Argentina wants to play a more important role in Latin American foreign policy. With the sole exception of Brazil, all the other countries agreed to jointly designate Spain as their representative at the EEC. Itamaraty believes that this decision can foment disagreement between Brazil and the United States.

The following ministers are attending the talks, which will end tomorrow: Abreu Sodre (Brazil), Dante Caputo (Argentina), Julio Londono (Colombia), Bernardo Sepulveda (Mexico), Simon Consalvi (Venezuela), Allan Wagner (Peru), Enrique Iglesias (Uruguay), and Jorge Arias (Panama).

CAF ALLOWS PRIVATE CAPITAL, APPROVES LOANS

PA030108 Paris AFP in Spanish 1217 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Caracas, 1 Apr (AFP) -- The Andean Development Corporation [CAF], financial branch of the Andean Pact, approved the entry of banks and other private organizations as shareholders.

Ricardo Noboa, CAF's Board of Directors president and Ecuadoran minister of industries, commerce, and integration, reported that options may be taken on type "B" shares, which will also allow participation in the board, although with "limited participation." This limitation is the result of a ceiling of no more than 40 percent of type "B" shares that may be obtained by each of the signatory countries. Noboa stressed that this private participation in CAF shares could even evolve into national representation if any of the member countries appoint a private director. The Andean Pact includes Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

Noboa also reported that CAF plans have been maintained for the issuance of bonds in dollars and yen to attract capital from third regions. CAF's shareholders assembly, which is based in Caracas, also approved a fund for promoting multinational Andean enterprises, to which they assigned $1.5 million; another fund for biotechnical development was assigned $1 million. The CAF directors also approved the following loans:

Ecuador:

-- $30 million for road improvement and refurbishing program.
-- $8,580 for replacing the Esmeraldas refinery boilers, which belong to the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation.
-- $7.5 million to repair the oil pipeline severely damaged in the 5 March earthquake.
-- Up to $10 million rotating credit for import and export operations through CAF's Andean Financing System.

Peru:

--$5.4 billion overall preinvestment credit for the Financial Development Corporation.

Colombia and Venezuela:

-- $39,200, nonreimbursable, to the Colombian-Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce and Integration, for partial financing of binational legislation for promoting multinational border integration enterprises.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON MILITARY REBELLION

Human Rights Trials To Continue

PY201918 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Cordoba Federal Court sources have reported that this week's schedule for court activities has not been modified. The sources have added, however, that, considering the recent crisis, there might be some political interest in postponing some questionings to prevent further friction.

Captain (Pedro Henrique Mones Ruiz) is scheduled to testify tomorrow, and Captain Gustavo Adolfo Alsina on 23 April. These two officers created some anxiety at the time when they refused to appear at the Civil Court. At 1600 today, Lieutenant Colonel Hermes Rodriguez, retired, is to testify on the Las Perlas case.

The two most conflictive cases, however, are those of Alsina and (Mones Ruiz). Both men refused to appear in court when summoned. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Bahia Blanca Court today questioned General Jose Luis Sexton without any difficulty. Sexton, the former commander of the 6th Brigade of Mountain Infantry headquartered in (Neuquen), was questioned on crimes perpetrated during the antiguerrilla war. Sexton is accused of at least 50 violations of human rights during the military repression conducted during the de facto regime. He is the third military officer to testify at the Bahia Blanca Court. The first officer to appear at the court was (Angel Pina), who testified for several days.

At the Mendoza Court, Police Inspector General Pablo Sanchez Camargo, retired, will continue to testify today. Camargo is charged with repeated human rights violations and is involved in the murder of poet and journalist Francisco Paco Urondo, killed in 1977. During the de facto regime, Sanchez Camargo was chief of the Mendoza Police Intelligence Department. He is charged with having operated a clandestine detention and torture center in the Police precinct building.

Rebel Officers Transferred

PY201541 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1510 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (NA) -- Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico and the other officers who participated in the Easter week uprising have been transferred from the Infantry School to the headquarters of the General Lemos Supply School for Combat Support. There they will await orders from Army leadership and the charges that will be brought against them.

The General Lemos School, like the Infantry School, is located within the perimeter of Campo de Mayo.

Commander: Situation 'Normal'

PY201543 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1307 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Cordoba, 20 Apr (TELAM) -- Brigade General Fausto Marcelo Gonzalez, acting commander of the III Army Corps, said today that one of his duties as head of the Cordoba Command is to make it clearly understood that any officer summoned by the courts is summoned as an individual, not as a member of an institution.

If an officer refuses to appear in court, however, he may create a situation in which the institution to which be belongs will be involved.

Gen Gonzalez today said that the situation in the III Army Corps is entirely normal. Previously planned activities are being conducted, and in some cases we have authorized leave to compensate for the recently experienced moments of great anxiety. Gonzalez said that he will be in charge of the III Corps until a definite commander is appointed.

Asked about the situation at the 14th Airborne Infantry Regiment where the crisis originated he said that the situation is entirely normal, and that activities, such as the reception of new recruits, are being conducted normally. I have, however, ordered that they take a 24-hour leave, and so the real training activities will start tomorrow.

Concerning the officers who offered their solidarity to former Major Barreiro, Gen Gonzalez said that the regiment personnel will be fully occupied with their duties, until the Military Courts determine each person's responsibility in the crisis. [passage omitted]

8 Army Generals to Retire

PY202310 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (NA) -- Reliable sources today said that eight generals, in addition to Generals Hector Rios Erenu and Antonio Ficchera, who have already retired, will retire in the next few days as a direct consequence of the military crisis the government confronted last week. The sources added that the government has not as yet made a "final decision" on the future Army chief of staff.

The generals who President Raul Alfonsin ordered to end the Campo de Mayo rebellion on the morning of 17 April -- an order that mid-level officers strongly opposed -- are the ones who will reportedly retire.

The following is the list of generals summoned by Alfonsin on Friday: Mario Jaime Sanchez, Julian Perez Dorrego, and Jose Caridi, all of whom were promoted in 1981; and Naldo Dasso, Ernesto Alais, Enrique Bonifacino, Antonio Ficchera, and Medrano Caro, who were promoted in 1982. The list obviously includes former Army Chief of Staff Hector Rios Erenu.

Rios Erenu and Ficchera have already retired; the announcement of the decision on the other generals is expected in the next few days. If all these generals retire, the future Army chief of staff will have to be chosen from the generals on active duty.

The commanders next in rank to the aforementioned officers are Generals Ocello, Rojas Alcorta, Boccalandro, Martini, D'Alessandri, Vidal, Abat, Fausto Gonzalez, Bianchi, Lategana, Santa Rosa, Tito, Dominguez, Svencionis, Verniet, Gracino, and Matiussi.

As for the possible candidates for the post of Army chief of staff, the name of General Vidal has been mentioned since the beginning of the crisis. Gen Vidal, who heads the Army Advanced Training Department, participated in the intense negotiations to convince the rebels to change their minds.

Reliable sources have said that many mid-level officers will welcome the designation of Gen Vidal, although they will also support Svencionis, Tito, Caceres, or Auel, who are still colonels but whose promotion to general must be approved by the Senate. [passage indistinct]

Erenu Urges Army To Respect Laws

PY210015 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2340 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (TELAM) -- Former Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu today urged all Army members to solve all Army problems within the framework of the Constitution and the laws governing its actions.

Rios Erenu made these remarks in a farewell radiogram addressed to all Army units. He added that the Argentine Army will continue to merit the respect and consideration of the nation if it continues to exemplify this dicision.

Polo Sentenced for Disobedience

PY210037 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2106 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Cordoba, 20 Apr (NA) -- Reliable sources today revealed that Lieutenant Colonel Luis Polo, who was the commander of the 14th Airborne Infantry Brigade, is serving a 20-day sentence for disobedience.

Lt Col Polo is responsible for hiding in his brigade former Major Ernesto Barreiro when he refused to appear before the Federal Court on 15 April to testify for charges of human rights violations.

Polo's situation was not clear on 16 and 17 April, when it was initially denied that he had been relieved from his post. However, Polo's relief from his post was confirmed soon afterward when General Fausto Gonzalez was appointed commander of the Infantry Brigade. Reliable sources today said that Polo was punished with 20 days of house arrest for disobedience.

Caridi Named Army COS

PY210048 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0044 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin has appointed General Jose Segundo Dante Caridi as the new Army chief of staff.

The announcement was made tonight at 2130 [0040 GMT] at the Olivos Residence by presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, who noted that Gen Caridi has been performing the duties of inspector general of the Army.

Appointment Forces Retirements

PY210109 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0040 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (DYN) -- The appointment of General Jose Segundo Caridi as the new Army chief of staff will force the retirement of General Mario Jaime Sanchez, the Army deputy chief of staff; and of General Julian Perez Dorrego, the Army Support Chief, in addition to that of General Hector Rios Erenu.

COS Caridi Begins Duties

PY210236 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0138 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (DYN) -- Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena and newly appointed Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi signed a protocol at 2230 formalizing the transfer of the Army's administrative management, which was in the hands of Minister Jaunarena for 24 hours, to the new Army chief of staff. Following the signing of the protocol, Jaunarena and Caridi prepared to hold a news conference.

More Generals Retire

PY210342 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0310 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin tonight appointed General Jose Segundo Caridi as new Army joint chief of staff, ordered the retirement of nine generals, and considered the possibility of postponing the promotion of several colonels. These moves are apparently being made in order to assert the government's control over the restless Army. [passage omitted]

The generals who will go into retirement following the appointment of Gen Caridi as chief of staff, and the removal of General Rios Erenu are the current Army Deputy Chief, General Mario Jaime Sanchez, and the current Support Service General Director, General Julian Perez Dorrego. Generals Rios Erenu, Sanchez, and Dorrego had more seniority than the newly appointed chief of staff. Gen Caridi, 56, single, was a classmate of Rios Erenu.

Independent of these compulsory retirements, a decision was made at midnight to send into retirement Military Institutions Director General Naldo Dasso, IV Army Corps Commander Juan Carlos Medrano Caro, Higher Institutes Director Roberto Bocalandro, and Training Institute Director Augusto Jose Vidal. Even tonight, Gen Vidal was being persistently mentioned as the future Army chief of staff. Two other generals whose retirement was decided are 10th Infantry Brigade Commander Luis Lategana and 1st Cavalry Brigade Commander Juan Manuel Tito.

In addition, the removal from the promotion list submitted to Congress of the names of colonels who had been appointed early this year to posts for which the rank of general is mandatory, is being considered. Although it has not been reported which colonels are involved, and bearing in mind the abrupt replacement of Generals Vidal and Tito, speculation is that the official decision is aimed at purging from the new leadership those officers who, one way or another, were mentioned by the leaders of the rebellion as "candidates" for assuming the Army leadership.

The new Army leadership headed by Gen Caridi is temporarily set up in the following manner:

In order of seniority, the following generals remain on active duty: Enrique Bonifacio, Ernesto Alais, Mario Antonio Martino, Miguel Wenceslao Abatte, Fauto Gonzalez, Enrique Jorge Bianchi, Antonio Jose Pineiro, Humberto Esteban Ferruchi, Elbio Alberto Santarrosa, Faustino Jose Svelcionis, Raul Ricardo Matiuzzi, Roberto Felipe Dominguez, Francisco Eduardo Gasino, and Valentin Osvaldo Venier.

Taking into account all the dismissals, the military crisis put an end to the careers of 10 staff generals. [passage omitted]

Relieved Officers Named

PY210406 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0352 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Apr (DYN) -- At midnight the Defense Ministry officially reported that "so far," nine chiefs of Army units have been relieved, apparently as a direct result of their actions or inaction in the military crisis resolved yesterday.

The relieved officers are the following:

Cordoba Military Garrison: Colonel Juan Rieken and Lieutenant Colonels Luis Nicolas Polo and Carlos Alberto Ramirez; San Javier Garrison: Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico; Rospenteck Garrison: Lieutenant Colonel Santiago Roque Alonso; Campo de Mayo Garrison: Lieutenant Colonel Juan Carlos Galloni; Magdalena Garrison: Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Ignacio Berra Aleman; Buenos Aires Garrison: Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Oliver, and Major Francisco Ricardo Verna.

As this report was being released, Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena was in his office analyzing the steps to be taken in this case. He is in permanent contact with General Jose Caridi, the new Army chief of staff, to consider the requests for retirements and possible replacements.

Jaunarena Orders 'Inquest'

PY210334 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0312 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (TELAM) -- Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena has ordered an immediate inquest to establish whether any crime has been committed [words indistinct] legal proceedings in the military rebellion that ended last night.

This information is included in the following communique, which the Defense Ministry released at midnight tonight:

The president of Argentina, in his capacity as Armed Forces commander in chief, has ordered the defense minister to accelerate the proceedings to establish the responsibility of the military personnel in the events that are known to the public, in order to strengthen discipline within the Armed Forces and rebuild the chain of command.

During the proceedings, the military courts shall consider that the responsibility is proportionate to the rank of the personnel involved.

In view of these decisions, and taking into account the military code regulations, the defense minister has ordered an immediate inquest to establish whether any crimes have been committed and whether any regulations have been violated, and the corresponding legal action.

BRIEFS

1986 GDP INCREASE -- Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (TELAM) -- The Economy Minister today officially disclosed that the GDP in 1986 increased by 5.7 percent. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2313 GMT 14 Apr 87 PY]

MINERS DECIDE TO BEGIN GENERAL STRIKE 20 APRIL

PY151909 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Miners Federation has decided to begin an indefinite general strike on 20 April. The decision was made after a national meeting which considers it the only way to get the government to fulfill the Federation's demands.

Victor Lopez, the Federation's executive secretary, made the announcement. [passage omitted]. Lopez the specifically referred to the strike.

[Begin recording] The indefinite general strike will go into effect at 0000 on 20 April in all the mines throughout the country. The demands are:

1. Solution of the salary problem for the miners of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia, for the metallurgical sector, and for the private mineworkers. The demand includes the just distribution of salaries.

2. Improvement of health, education and supplies.

3. We demand that the plans for the reactivation of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia become a reality, especially in the areas of financing and other elements which are essential for its reactivation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

GOVERNMENT REACTION TO COB MARCH, BOMBING

Interior Minister's Remarks

PY151351 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] According to the latest report from the Interior Ministry the march sponsored by the Bolivian Labor Confederation created problems only in La Paz.

Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran told the press that the explosion of a bomb in front of the U.S. Embassy injured eight members of the Social Security Bank. He said that the injuries are not serious and that the eight people are in good condition. He added that an investigation is being conducted to find out who is responsible for the attack.

The interior minister also said that the demonstrations throughout the country were peaceful. This is what Duran said:

[Begin recording] Demonstrations were conducted in Cochambamba, Oruro, Potosi, and Sucre with some support. The demonstrations were peaceful.

[Reporter] Are there any indications who is responsible for the attack in La Paz?

[Duran] An investigation is being conducted. We are trying to find out who is responsible for throwing the bomb. This is very difficult because there were many people on the street when the bomb exploded, but it is not an impossible task. [end recording]

Minister Duran pointed out that there is no longer any reason for the workers to continue mobilizations because the new national budget has been approved.

[Begin Duran recording] I believe that there is no longer any reason for the mobilizations. The national budget has been approved, and the appropriate funds have already been allocated for salaries and expenditures. There i also a substantial increase in the university budget, so the mobilizations will no longer have any effect because the national budget is a law of the Republic and cannot be changed either by the executive of the legislative branches. [end recording]

Minister Duran also added that the legal proceedings agains Juan Lechin Oquendo are no longer in the hands of the government but under the jurisdiction of the regular courts.

Police Chief's Evaluation

PY151409 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] General Raul Escobar, general commander of the Bolivian Police, has reported that the demonstrations conducted throughout the rest of the country were peaceful and that there were no regrettable incidents.

Gen Escobar released the reports he received from various parts of the country indicating that there were only minor problems. He said there were some incidents in Oruro when demonstrators set off dynamite that broke some windows of the pefecture in the main square. The second largest demonstration in Potosi was also large.

Gen Escobar regretted that a guard was wounded during the explosion in front of the U.S. Embassy. He added that the people responsible for the attack are extremists who tried to create a disturbance but failed because of the responsible attitude of the demonstrators.

Gen Escobar called on the workers to put aside their intransigent and violent attitude and to contribute to the national economic reactivation.

COB'S JUAN LECHIN CHARGED WITH SEDITION

PY132118 Paris AFP in Spanish 1423 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 13 Apr (AFP) -- The Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) reported here today that the government intends to take advantage of the remarks made by union leader Juan Lechin Oquendo last Friday, when he referred to the need to replace Victor Paz Estenssoro as the Bolivian president, and to establish a state of siege.

A state of siege is a constitutional measure by which the executive branch can suspend constitutional guarantees for 90 days, in case of internal unrest.

Paz Estenssoro implemented a state of siege in September 1985 in response to the workers' reaction to his neoliberal economic policy, and again in August 1986 in response to the so-called march for life stage by the mineworkers who vainly tried to prevent the cessation of their employment.

Lechin Oquendo stated that if Paz Estenssoro remains in the Presidency, Bolivia will be reduced, in a few more months, to the status of a new U.S. colony.

According to the Attorney General's office, an agency of the executive branch, these remarks represent sedition, and therefore, criminal proceedings have been started against the union leader.

These events are taking place just when the COB has scheduled for tomorrow a great national rally to repudiate the democratic regime.

Lechin Responds

PY131446 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] COB leader Juan Lechin Oquendo has said he is willing to go to jail to defend the workers. Radio Panamericana talked with him about charges that have been filed against him for promoting sedition and insurrection.

Judge (Teodomiro Saavedra) filed the charges this weekend. Lechin's reaction has been awaited with expectation. Here is what he said:

[Begin recording] Well, it is not the first time a government has tried to take legal action against me, and use the law to send me to jail. I have had to face this situation since I struggled against the [words indistinct]. Consequently, I am not afraid of it. I would be very happy to go to jail if that would help defend the interests of the vast majority of the people from an ill-fated government that is destroying the state and promoting starvation.

What I have said is in line with the exercise of human rights, because, like everyone else, I have the right to criticize an this is what I did.

If President Paz remains in power, in a few more years Bolivia will become a U.S. colony.

It is the ruling party rascals -- and there are many of them -- against whom the government should take legal action. [end recording]

Lechin added that, as a labor leader, he believes that President Paz should step down, because his policy is destroying the state and causing the people to starve in misery. Asked to give his opinion on who should replace the president, Lechin replied:

[Begin recording] The Constitution sets forth that the president must be replaced by the vice president or, if the latter refuses, by the president of the Senate. [end recording]

Lechin concluded by saying that all workers will participate in a nationwide mobilization next week. The labor leader condemned the arrest of university students, stressing that repression will not quell the protest over the fact that the government has once again ridiculed workers, because none of their demands was granted during the talks that were mediated by the Catholic Church.

According to official sources, the legal proceedings in the case against Lechin will continue today, although the labor leader is ready to defend himself.

Bedregal Justifies Charges

PY131914 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has said the government is always willing to engage in dialogue with the labor organizations, but it strongly condemns those who want to destabilize the current democratic system. Bedregal thus justified the charges that the government has filed against Juan Lechin Oquendo.

[Begin recording] [Bedregal] I believe that Juan's comments are inaccurate. The situation is quite different from any impartial opinion that he may have. Coming from a leader like him, an opinion of this kind obviously spells danger [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Do you think putting Lechin in jail would help solve [words indistinct]?

[Bedregal] In addition to being a leader, Lechin is a citizen like anyone else. If he voluntarily makes subversive statements, the government must enforce the law as it would in the case of any other citizen. [end recording]

Bedregal added that it will be very difficult to grant the salary readjustment the workers have demanded, because the administration does not have funds for further increases. The government formulated its best possible offer and hopes that workers will reflect and avoid problems.

Vice President Rebuffs Lechin

PY110134 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Today, Bolivia can choose only between Paz Estenssoro or chaos, Vice President Julio Garret Ayllon said upon rejecting the remarks of a union leader who proposed the president be overthrown.

In a statement made tonight in his office, Garret said that the nation can only go one way, that is, the democratic and constitutional way.

[Begin Garrett recording] President Victor Paz Estenssoro represents democracy and the Constitution. It is a political contradiction to propose the president's ouster in the name of democracy. There is no valid reason to break the law and to overlook the Bolivian people's desire, as reflected in elections and in Congress. Despite the unrealistic proposals of ultra-left forces, President Paz Estenssoro continues to enjoy the nation's confidence. Bolivia needs him today more than ever. [end recording]

Garret said all Bolivians should remember the long list of unsuccessful political coups that have taken place in, and that the nation has been the big loser. He added that the workers should not let themselves be dragged into setting once again the stage for a new dictatorship in the name of false constitutional options.

[Begin Garret recording] In the face of the threats hanging over democracy, it is our duty to close ranks behind President Paz Estenssoro and his constitutional government. [end recording]

INTERIOR MINISTRY ARRESTS FORMER GUERRILLA PEREDO

PY091938 Paris AFP in Spanish 1256 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 9 Apr (AFP) -- Relatives of Osvaldo Chato Peredo Leigue -- former guerrilla fighter and leader of the Bolivian National Liberation Army (ELN) -- today reported that Interior Ministry agents raided Peredo's home in the city of Santa Cruz, in the country's eastern region, and detained him. Peredo's relatives said the arrest took place yesterday, while Peredo was carrying out his usual activities, which are not connected with politics. They also requested that Peredo be shown publicly because they fear he is being tortured.

President Victor Paz Estenssoro's government officials still have not reported this matter. It is expected, in the next few hours, that the Interior Ministry will release a communique explaining the reasons for the arrest.

Osvaldo Chato Peredo had two brothers involved in guerrilla fights. One of them, Coco Peredo, fought and died side by side with Commander Ernesto Che Guevara at Nancahauza in 1967. The other, Inti Peredo, died participating as a member of the La Paz Urban Guerrilla Organization. Chato Peredo's other brother, Antonio Peredo, is the director of the leftist weekly AQUI.

Ministry Links Peredo to Left

PY110257 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Interior Ministry officials, in a news conference that ended a few minutes ago, reported that state intelligence organizations have uncovered a subversive group operating in Santa Cruz. Osvaldo Chato Peredo, the extremist arrested on Wednesday night and taken to La Paz, is a member of this group.

Interior Ministry Under Secretary Ruben Moreno said Peredo, who was questioned in La Paz, is believed to be linked to ultra left-wing groups such as the Point of Convergence [Eje de Congergencia].

Morenos said the terrorist group is well organized, and that some groups were being trained in the jungle. He said the terrorists sought to infiltrate and control state security organizations in Santa Cruz, namely the Military School, the Intelligence Service, the Bolivian police, and other organizations.

Moreno reported that Peredo is under arrest and will soon be turned over to the courts. He showed newsmen weapons, military garments, and documents describing subversive plans to be launched in the next few months with the help of national and international leftist organizations. [passage indistinct]

MINISTER, SENATE LEADER RESPOND TO DEMONSTRATIONS

Duran Guarantees 'Normal' Media

PY101450 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] The government guarantees the normal operation of all the communications media of the country. Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran said yesterday. The minister made this comment after visiting EL DIAIRO director Jorge Carrasco, who was attacked yesterday by extremist groups that had joined the student marches. The attack took place at 1915, when a group of demonstrators threw Molotov cocktails at the EL DIARIO building on Loayza Street causing property damage but no injuries.

The interior minister went there immediately with Bolivian Police Chief Raul Escobar. The minister said this attack was not only against the national patrimony but also against freedom of expression. Therefore, he said, the government will guarantee the normal operations of the communications media and it will investigate until it finds out who committed these violent actions.

Violent Demonstrations Scored

PY101424 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] As of today, the government will not allow any disorder, and it will firmly repress any attempt at destabilization by extremists, Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran warned last night, after the regrettable incidents staged by teachers and university teachers yesterday.

The minister said the anarchists used dynamite, Molotov cocktails, guns, and other dangerous weapons. He said the objective of these actions is to destabilize the democratic process. However, the executive branch will not allow this. Minister Duran said the Bolivian police have been instructed to be ready to prevent a repetition of such incidents.

[Begin Duran recording] The demonstrators shot dynamite sticks with bows and arrows and used handguns and Molotov cocktails. This means the peaceful marches turned out to be real acts of terrorism. [end recording]

The interior minister also said the government will cease its passive attitude and will act firmly according to the law.

[Begin Duran recording] I want to explain that we believe that understanding and dialogue are the best manner for reaching an agreement, but we will firmly repress extremist actions. As of today we will not allow any kind of demonstration. [end recording]

Senate President Supports Paz

PY111510 La Paz Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Bolivian Senate President Ciro Humboldt Barrero has voiced his full support for President Victor Paz Estenssoro's constitutional government and has rejected efforts to destabilize the democratic government.

[Begin Humboldt recording] I am convinced that the Bolivian president must fulfill his constitutional mandate and that the Constitution must be fully respected, and not suffer any changes. [end recording]

Yesterday afternoon a climate of political unrest was felt in Congress, and concern could be sensed among the congressmen of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement in view of the demonstrations by some sections, especially the university students who insist on protesting. [passage omitted]

MILITARY BLAMES ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FOR UNREST

PY180055 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2318 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Apr (EFE) -- Brazilian military officers today blamed the Argentine Government for the military uprising in Cordoba "because it did not declare an impartial amnesty for torturers and terrorists." [sentence as received]

Several high-ranking officers consulted by "Estado" news agency have stated that "the best solution is to forget, just as it was done in Brazil."

An Air Force Ministry source said that Brazilian military officers have no reason to perpetrate a coup against the Sarney government as has been rumored in the last few days. The source added that "although the Armed Forces may say otherwise" the economic situation in Brazil "is better now, and the military is no longer obliged to carry the burden of economic and administrative failures."

The source said that "the military members of the Cabinet want to be remembered as those who were responsible for restoring democracy in Brazil and for returning a civilian government to power, even though they do have the necessary tools to perpetrate a coup d'etat."

According to the news agency "Estado", Brazilian officers believe that the Argentine Government and society are to blame for the military uprising because the latter are more concerned in finding guilty persons within military barracks and in sending the military to court. Another officer said that "if the country had already forgotten what happened, it would not be experiencing this dangerous situation."

Brazilian Constituent Assembly deputies are currently discussing the role of the military in national politics. They are seeking mechanisms through which situations similar to those in Argentina may be controlled.

MENDES ON COUP POSSIBILITY; NEW GENERALS NAMED

PY210027 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Apr 87 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- Following a ceremony yesterday to install new generals, National Service for Intelligence [SNI] Chief Ivan de Souza Mendes said that there is no room for a military coup. According to Souza Mendes, "the military actually wants the strengthening of civilian power."

Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves preferred not to make any comment. His spokesman, General Olava Guimaraes, chief of the Army Social Communications Center, said that the Army Ministry's position is already known through the orders of the day and through interviews given by Minister Leonidas Pires. This positions confirms the goal of separating the military from politics and improving the Army's professional level.

General Haroldo Erichsen da Fonseca, the Army secretary of science and technology, also assessed last weeks rumors of a military coup.

"The people expected something else from the government, forgetting the country's economic difficulties," Gen da Fonseca said.

According to Gen da Fonseca, "the current situation cannot be compared to the situation that prevailed in 1964."

"In 1964, the government was against the people, sponsoring and promoting strikes. The only thing in common is the difficult economic situation. However, everything should improve," Gen da Fonseca said.

The presentation of swords to the new generals was held in the Nobre Hall at the Army Club. Brigadier General Nilton Cerqueira had Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves as his sponsor.

In addition to Gen Cerqueira, Brigadier Generals Wladier Cavalcante, Sergio Bergamaschi, Nelson de Almeida Querido, Sergio Loeps Cutinho, Joao Luiz Saraiva de Castro, Gleuber Vieira, Curt Dietzold, Jose Antonio Belham, Domingos Gazzineo, Francisco Pamplona, Periches Ferreira Gomes, Antonio Real Martins, and Jose Saldanha Fabrega also received their swords.

During the congratulatory speech delivered by Army Chief of Staff General Fernando Valente Pamplona, the new generals were called upon to cooperate "in the sacrifice now imposed, which will lead to national prosperity." In the speech, Gen Valente also emphasized that "the present time is very important because a new constitution is being drawn up and new courses are being pursued concerning the country's economical and financial policy."

USSR TO REACTIVATE $100 MILLION IN CREDITS

PY181521 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Apr 87 p A30

[Text] Vladislav Kurenkov, 59, USSR trade representative to Brazil, has proposed that the line of credit created for Brazil in 1965, which totaled $100 million, be reactivated and used to increase trade between the two countries. Last year, the balance of bilateral trade reached $385 million -- 40 percent less then in 1985. Some $345 million out of this total was the result of Brazilian exports to the USSR.

The small variety of imported Soviet products has repeatedly produced surpluses for Brazil (about $2 billion during the period 1980-1984). Soviet crude oil accounts for more than 80 percent of the Brazilian purchases.

Brazilian exports consist mainly of basic or semifinished products, primarily demerara sugar, cocoa nuts, refined cocoa paste, vegetable oil biproducts, crude soybean oil, sisal fiber, minerals, and steel plate.

RIO DE JANEIRO DEVELOPMENT BANK TO CLOSE

PY170324 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] It has been announced in Rio de Janeiro that the Rio de Janeiro State Development Bank -- BDRIO -- will close its doors. The decision was made during a meeting held between the members of the Central Bank Executive Board, and Vitorio Cabral, Rio de Janeiro State industry and trade secretary.

According to Central Bank Chairman Francisco Gros, only 30 out of the 336 BDRIO employees will be rehired. All the others will be dismissed.

CONDITIONS FOR REAGAN SUMMIT PROPOSAL 'NOT PRESENT'

PA171302 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Bogota -- Colombia today announced that the conditions for a summit of Latin American presidents as proposed by President Ronald Reagan to discuss the thorny problem of drug trafficking at the end of the year are not yet present.

Foreign Minister Julio Londono said that a meeting with those characteristics is not yet foreseen because an agenda must be drafted, topics must be planned, and matters must be cleared and discussed beforehand in order to hold that summit.

Londono returned from a meeting with his counterparts of the Contadora and Support Groups held in San Carlos de Bariloche where they expressed enthusiasm for the Esquipulas summit of the five Central American presidents to be held next month in an effort to pave the way for peace in the region.

TOP FARC, EPL LEADERS RELEASE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

PA170412 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0121 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Bogota, 16 Apr (EFE) -- The top guerrilla commanders of the orthodox Communist Party of Colombia, and the Colombian Communist Party Marxist-Leninist [PCC-ML] Maoist, have signed a joint "democratic convergence" document.

In the communique, the FARC, the "armed wing" of the Communist Party that follows the Moscow line, and the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), of the PCC-ML, express their willingness to "continue seeking the unity of the guerrilla movement" and a "political solution" to the crisis experienced by the country.

The communique is signed by the top commanders of the two guerrilla groups; namely, Manuel Marulanda Velez (Tirofijo) of the FARC, and Francisco Caraballo of the EPL.

The document states that the two organizations coincide "on the need to work toward the achievement of a democratic convergence involving the participation of popular, labor, political, and guerrilla organizations, as well as progressive individuals to find a political solution to the current situation in the country."

They add that this "broad democratic convergence" must fight against "the dual party system, fascism, and militarism."

The joint communique was published simultaneously by the weeklies LA VOZ, organ of the orthodox Communist Party, and REVOLUTION, organ of the PCC-ML.

The FARC has maintained a truce with the government since 1984, while the EPL broke the truce in 1985 following the assassination of Oscar William Calvo, EPL leader and spokesman.

The Patriotic Union was created in November 1985, under the protection of the truce, to facilitate the transition of FARC guerrillas to legal political life; since then, 400 of its leaders and activists have been killed.

The agreement was made public following a "congress of unity for a democratic and popular alternative" held in Bogota on 10, 11, and 12 April with the participation of spokesmen for Colombian guerrilla organizations, delegates from leftist parties and movements, and labor and peasant organizations.

POLICE CAPTURE DRUG TRAFFICKING 'LEADER'

PA182246 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Report by Santiago Latorre Cante]

[Text] Policemen have delivered a hard blow to drug traffickers when Leonidas Vargas Vargas, better known as El Viejo, was captured. Cundinamarca Department policemen arrested Vargas Vargas and five other people on the road leading from Zipaquira to Pacho municipality, north of Bogota. The names of the other five people arrested are: Edinarco Sanchez Prieto, Edgar Alonso Sanchez, Jose Ignacio Suarez Pastrana, Leonidas Vargas, 15-year old son of Vargas Vargas and Belgica Joven de Vargas.

The policemen were able to confiscate the following weapons: 3 9-mm pistols, 3 revolvers of various calibers, a 12-mm shotgun, 7 pistol magazines, 277 rounds of various calibers, 5 high frequency radios, 2 suitcases, a radio antenna, 1,200 sucres in bills, $8, a checkbook containing 12 checks from the Panama Bank [Banco de Panama], a checkbook containing 9 checks from the State Bank [Banco del Estado], various checks from the Panama Bank and from the Germanico Bank [Banco Germanico] written for $438,000, checks written for 1,850,000 [currency not specified], a car with license plate no FD 8012, and other items turned over to the authorities.

It was reported that Vargas Vargas offered 100 million pesos to the police chief and to two policemen in exchange for his release.

Edinarco Sanchez Prieto is wanted for murder by the 12th Superior Court of Bogota according to the registry dated 23 February 87.

This communique was signed by Lieutenant Colonel Fabio Quijano Escobar, Cundinamarca Department police chief.

Meanwhile, it was learned that police units are currently combing different areas in Cundinamarca Department in search for other leaders of an international drug trafficking network.

SHINING PATH AMBUSHES BUS, KILLS 13 PASSENGERS

PY202318 Paris AFP in Spanish 2159 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 20 Apr (AFP) -- Members of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla organization killed 13 people during an attack on a busfull of civilian and military passengers in Huancavelica, 500 km southeast of Lima, it was reported today by police sources.

According to the police report, the guerrillas last night ambushed the bus at a place known as Corralpampa on a narrow road linking Huancavelica to the Recuperada Mine. As the bus crossed the area, the guerrillas detonated dynamite sticks and machinegunned the passengers.

The bus was carrying approximately 40 people, including Army soldiers who had attended a Sunday flag-raising ceremony at the Recuperada Mine, west of the city of Huancavelica.

According to the reports received today from that remote area, eight soldiers, one noncommissioned officer, and four civilians died during the attack.

This was the first attack by Shining Path guerrillas on a busfull of passengers in the Ayacucho zone, a stronghold of the insurgents led by Abimael Guzman. Earlier, the Shining Path guerrillas just stopped the buses and forced the driver and the passengers to pay them a toll. If they found a policeman or a military man among the passengers, they would execute him, but they did not harm the civilians.

Communique Issued on Killings

PY210202 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0023 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 20 Apr (EFE) -- The Armed Forces Joint Command confirmed today the killing of 10 soldiers and 4 civilians in an attack by presumed members of Shining Path in Huancavelica Department, southeast of Lima.

In a communique released in Lima, the Joint Command says that three other soldiers were injured in the ambush at the Porfiado bridge on Sunday morning. A sublieutenant, five sergeants, and four corporals were killed. The communique says that a search operation to catch "the subversive criminals" is being conducted in the area by military patrols.

The communique also says that the military group was on its way to assist the population of Huachocolpa and to participate in a flag-raising ceremony, but it does not provide more details.

Police sources have reported that the attack was perpetrated with bombs hurled at the truck transporting the military and civilian group, 18 km from Huancavelica, the departmental capital, 440 km southeast of Lima.

The truck, property of a mining company in the Huachocolpa Zone, was hit by explosive charges and blew up, leaving the occupants sprawled on the ground near the Porfiado bridge. According to the same sources, after the truck had overturned, the Shining Path members opened fire on the occupants, and then fled, taking the soldiers' weapons.

Huancavelica is bordered on the south by Ayacucho Department, and some of its provinces where terrorists are active are included in the Emergency Zone.

Yesterday's attack on military personnel took place 10 days after an attack in the Rimac Distric of Lima, which took the lives of two Army officers and five civilians. In that occasion, members of the Shining Path barged into a restaurant where officers from the Armored Division often ate lunch, and opened fire on the officers.

POLICE SEARCHING FOR CHILEAN TERRORIST

PY202217 Paris AFP in Spanish 1708 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 19 Apr (AFP) -- Sources at the antiterrorist directorate (DIRCOTE) today reported that the Peruvian Police are searching for Chilean Blanca Azocar Marty, an active member of the underground Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), a Chilean seditious movement, and that the Chilean authorities have filed a request for her extradition.

The sources added that the Chilean authorities have submitted several requests for the arrest of Azocar Marty on charges of involvement in the frustrated attempt against General Augusto Pinochet. It is not known when the woman secretly entered Peru.

The sources said that the Chilean authorities have reported the arrest of 14 FPMR members, who are at the disposal of Chilean Judge Advocate Fernando Torres.

The FPMR, which according to the Chilean military regime is the armed branch of the Communist Party, claimed responsibility for the attack against Pinochet in September 1986.

TELMEX HEAD DISCUSSES RATES, STRIKE, SABOTAGE

FL172222 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1641 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Emilio Carrillo Gamboa, head of the Mexican Telephone Company [Telmex], has stated that the 56 percent wage increase granted to the telephone workers will not affect rates in any way.

Interviewed briefly after the signing of the wage adjustment agreement between Telmex and its trade union, Carrillo Gamboa said telephone rates will go up in accordance with previously announced plans.

Moreover, he explained that the agreement gives reason to expect that telephone service will improve. Talks are under way with the workers for this purpose. We have talked about increasing productivity and upgrading the equipment, which without the cooperation of the union are useless.

He said that with the cooperation and good disposition that the union has displayed, the public will benefit soon from the elimination of shortcomings in the telephone service.

He also reported that the company will not drop its suit filed with the attorney general over the sabotage carried out against the company during the strike. However, he added, I want to make clear that the company is not pointing a finger at the union or its members.

COMMERCE SECRETARIAT RELEASES 2-YEAR PLAN

PA162230 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Mexico will demand the establishment at the GATT of an effective mechanism with the IMF to permanently regulate the relationship between monetary factors including the foreign debt, and trade policies. The objective is to make the external sector the basis of industrialization and to strengthen economic independence through a solid technological structure.

This is stated by the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development in a National Development Plan, which has been drafted and adjusted for the next biennium. This document includes earlier objectives, but places emphasis on the mechanisms needed to progress in the industrial reconversion area.

The document states that in 1987 and 1988, Mexico will increase imports to historic levels and decrease demand for external financing as a result of growing nonpetroleum exports.

BRIEFS

PEMEX RENEWS CREDIT LINES -- Pemex signed an agreement Tuesday with its creditor banks renewing lines of credit totaling 3 billion dollars. The Bank of America was the agent for the 83 banks involved. The lines of credit total 2 billion dollars, with another billion available if export volumes warrant it. [Excerpts] [Mexico City THE NEWS in English 8 Apr 87 p 47 PA]

LA PRENSA VIEWS CURRENT RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PA162223 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Apr 87 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] Recently, relations between Panama and the United States have been characterized by great complexity. What for many years was a delicate link primarily centered around the operation, maintenance, and defense of the canal, has become a confusing web of conflicts and interests.

Panama's position with the Third World countries, its links with the Nicaraguan and Cuban Governments, and its role in the Contadora Group have introduced in our relationships international perspectives unconnected to the traditional bilateral situation between the two countries. Those perspectives acquire special meaning when linked to the problems of the defense of the canal and U.S. military interests in the Central American and Caribbean areas.

An important situation that recently developed, and one which has had a great impact on U.S. society is the drug consumption problem and the efforts of U.S. authorities to stop drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

In Panama we have to improve our patriotism, because under the guise of the struggle against drug trafficking and as a result of the questioned position of several Panamanian authorities, the United States is trying to achieve much broader and longer term goals, such as the weakening of the Panamanian law on banking secrecy, of the laws on corporations, and of trademark rights and trade representation. This is because of the U.S.' fiscal and economic policy, which is only another version of the Monroe Doctrine: Latin America must follow the U.S. example.

This explains all the contradictions in regard to democratization, the defense of human rights, and economic support that U.S. policy often reveals. That policy proclaims freedom and democracy and, at the same time -- when it suits its interests -- it supports dictatorial and corrupt governments.

COLUMN LINKS U.S. 'CAMPAIGN' TO RETURN OF CANAL

PA210206 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 19 Apr 87 p 6 A

["Vox Populi Vox Dei" column by Luis Restrepo: "Why Noriega?--Part Two"]

[Text] The writer charged last week in this "Sunday" column that the spiteful and bitter campaign unleashed against General Manual Antonio Noriega in the United States falls within the framework of the traditional U.S. strategy in its relations with our country. The writer feels that Gen Noriega's position as a nationalist leader is an obstacle to the U.S. plans not to comply with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and to extend its military presence in Panama beyond 31 December 1999.

The writer charged in the same article that there are Panamanian sectors which are willing to see Panama become one more star in the U.S. flag and are systematically and consistently maneuvering from within in support of the U.S. plans.

In this regard, on Monday, April 13, this columnist heard a commentator argue over a morning radio program with a large listening audience that "when the Panama Canal treaties were ratified all Panamanians understood that the United States would maintain its military bases of occupation in our country beyond 31 December 1999."

The commentator, who graduated from a U.S. university and has family ties in that country, maliciously insisted on calling for "a new agreement that will allow the U.S. military forces to stay in Panama 25 YEARS AFTER THE YEAR 2000."

The charge raised in this column against the campaign sponsored by the U.S. Government for the above-stated purpose is based on reliable information by the writer. This campaign seeks to discredit Gen Noriega; to force Noriega's retirement from the Defense Forces of Panama [FDP]; and to impose in 1989 an unpatriotic president who will sell us the idea that the departure of the U.S. soldiers will provoke an economic disaster and that we Panamanians will not be able to operate the canal efficiently.

We, the Panamanian nationalists, are greatly concerned over the lecture to be delivered by economic expert Guillermo Chapman to the conference of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives (CADE/87) [1987 annual conference of business executives] on the subject of "Economic Consequences of the canal's Reversion." We are concerned because on previous occasions Chapman has painted a gloomy and disheartening picture of Panama's economy after the departure of the U.S. occupation forces.

In other words, the intention is to sell the idea that Panama cannot survive without U.S. military bases on its soil. The writer insists on what he has said before: "THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT PANAMA TO BECOME ONE MORE STAR IN THE U.S. FLAG..."

This is not what the Panamanian people want. GEN NORIEGA HAS ALREADY SAID: "ON 31 DECEMBER 1999 WE WILL MARCH TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE DEFENSE SITES WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS OBLIGED TO VACATE. AND WE WILL DO SO WITH FIXED BAYONETS IF NECESSARY, TO THROW THEM OUT IF THEY REFUSE TO LEAVE. THAT IS WHY THEY WANT TO DESTROY HIM [as published]."

Once it is in Panama's hand and exploited to its full potential, the canal will be a source of wealth that will compensate for the loss of income from the departure of the U.S. soldiers and leave enough to cover the canal defense costs.

The writer would like to repeat on this occasion also what he has always contended: "THE NATION'S DIGNITY IS OVER AND ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE."

On 31 December 1999 Panama will cease being a country militarily occupied by a foreign nation and will have, for the first time, ABSOLUTE AND UNDISPUTED SOVEREIGNTY. AND THE FDP WILL GUARANTEE PEACE IN THE COUNTRY, PROTECT OUR CITIZENS, AND DEFEND OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE.

THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE'S MOTTO IS: NOT A SINGLE STEP BACKWARDS. THEY WILL NOT AGREE TO A TREATY PERPETUATING THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN PANAMA.

DELVALLE INSTALLS DRUG PREVENTION COMMISSION

PA042054 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Apr 87 p 39

[Speech by President Eric Arturo Delvalle at the installation of the National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-related Crimes at the presidential palace in Panama City on 3 April]

[Text] In view of the drug trafficking and abuse problem, my government promulgated Law No 23 of 30 December 1986, which represents a big step in the development of special legislation to control and prevent drug related crimes.

Although our country is not viewed as a drug producer or consumer, it is a fact that its geographic position has made it a point of interest for the establishment of routes for the trafficking of drugs and hallucinogenic substances. In a similar way, the great international trade carried out through Panama has made this a highly desirable place for drug traffickers. In addition, the existence of a strong banking center attracts drug trafficking criminals, who became interested in using this center as a possible place to hide the funds they have accumulated from this evil business that nurtures itself on bad habits and that strengthens drug addiction, a habit that ruins people, particularly the world's youth.

After taking these three aspects into consideration, as well as the fact that the paths to drug trafficking are always built at the expense of the people's health and welfare, we agreed to issue a new law for our agencies. The main goal of this law is to put a stop to organized crime's treacherous attack and to protect our citizens from it.

When human beings sense a great danger, they and those around them develop a high sense of solidarity and cooperation. In the face of the drug problem, the Panamanian people will reinforce their family unity and fighting spirit to fight this battle which I am sure they will win. Panamanians will draw this new moral strength from their family values.

The best weapon in this battle is timely prevention. For this reason, any idea or program aimed at developing ethical and moral values that promote family unity have been and will continue to be supported by my government.

We have worked hard. Resounding successes have been achieved. This calls for the nation's recognition. I take this opportunity to praise the invaluable cooperation of government agencies, educational, civil, and religious organizations, the National Defense Forces, private enterprise, several friendly governments, and many Panamanian citizens in the prevention of drug trafficking and use. Thanks to their support in the face of a common threat, we have obtained victories and made achievements that have been recognized by the international community.

In the face of these victories and achievements, I urge all national groups and my compatriots to increase their cooperation and specific actions to continue this struggle, with the profound conviction that the homeland is built on the basis of principles that stem from the family. In this way, we will protect our youth from the destruction caused by that scourge and will stop the malevolent action of those who want to use our country for their evil drug trafficking purposes.

Such goals demand the unity of all of us, regardless of our political, ideological, or religious affiliation or economic level. Each Panamanian who wants to eradicate this problem is an ally in this crusade we are carrying out to save the future of our institutions and the happiness of our children. I am very pleased with the presence of kind-hearted citizens and brilliant minds who are united with a single and patriotic goal in mind, putting aside any other interests which do not benefit our society.

The National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-related Crimes is a factor that brings all institutions together. This will allow us to coordinate the use of resources to obtain the best results. It is my greatest desire that private sector groups will find in public organizations the solution and support they need for their programs. I hope that this commission will be an example of the unity Panamanians can accomplish when we all seek a common goal.

On formally installing this commission, I pray to God that with all His kindness He will englighten the hearts of every Panamanian so that every home will become stronger and will fight any attempt to corrupt our children through the condemnable drug trafficking. Thank you.

BAN ON TRANSIT OF FREE ZONE PRODUCTS SCORED

PA161229 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Station editorial]

[Text] Today, once again we must say that the pressures and plots against Panama are a monster of one thousand heads. At times, reports appear riddled with stereotypes and slanders. They have been repeated so often that they have lost their objectivity. Moreover, the concerns of Stephen Solarz, Democratic congressman from Brooklyn, make him turn his back to the needs of the district that elected him and seek an opportunity to draw attention in order to justify his personal political activities in countries friendly to the United States. Solarz is a vulgar agent of U.S. interventionism who is acting under the guise of a concerned democrat. Earlier, the ensuing attacks by U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, who has now teamed up with Democratic Senator John Kerry, broke all the precedents of the Senate's internal rules, just to make a little noise and serve the consortia that pay them so well.

On other occasions, there are economic sanctions, such as a cut in our meat and textile exports. The latest manifestation of these plots has taken a regional twist. It goes from Washington to impoverished Central America, a strife-torn area. There, a grim and unending war is being waged. Yesterday on our evening newscast we watched on our screens maimed Salvadoran children and peasant women on crutches. They are victims of the mines placed by the guerrillas on all of that country's rural roads. And we asked ourselves: How can Christian Democratic President Jose Napoleon Duarte, in collusion with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, falsely use the reactivation of the Central American Common Market as a pretext to ban the transit of merchandise from Colon's Free Zone through their countries? Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo joined those two. The three presidents have urged Costa Rica and Nicaragua to endorse their decision.

Colon's Free Zone exports every year from $6 to $7 million to the brother countries of Central America. The low levels of productivity and private investments, investments that are at an impasse with subsequent stagnant growth due to the dramatic impact of the war, constitute obstacles hampering the reactivation of the Central American Common Market.

Free Zone Users Concerned

PA201857 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Apr 87 p 33

[Text] Francisco Anderson, president of the Association of the Colon Free Zone Users [Asociacion de Usuarios de la Zona Libre de Colon] (AU) has described as "an unfortunate precedent for Central American trade" the measures to be adopted as of 30 April by El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, closing their borders to merchandise coming by land from the Free Zone.

This ban considerably affects trade from the Free Zone with these three countries that in 1985 represented 7 percent of the total re-exports, that reportedly amounted to approximately 126.9 balboas, according to a study carried out by the Free Zone.

The same study also disclosed that by 1987, it was expected that trade would reach 4.4 billion balboas, but the ban would represent a drop of approximately 140 million balboas, in reexports alone without considering the imports from those countries and their multiplying effect.

"It is ridiculous to close these borders to prevent contraband. The merchandise from the Free Zone leaves the duty-free area and is guarded all the way to the Panama-Costa Rica border, and from there each Central American country has its own methods of security and stamps a seal that guarantees the merchandise arrive intact at its final destination without having been diverted," Anderson said.

He emphasized that it is illogical to try to prevent contraband in those countries bu restricting shipments from Panama. If any contraband occurs in their countries, it is due to their lack of security. He added that apparently the Central American countries are not trying to prevent contraband, but rather restrict imports coming from Panama.

EL SALVADOR

RIVERA Y DAMAS URGES DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

PA201559 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1741 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas stated today that all citizens must defend the democratic process, otherwise they "risk regression." Msgr Rivera y Damas alluded directly to the Argentine military rebellion during the Sunday religious services held in the Metropolitan Cathedral. "One must strive as much as possible to overcome the difficulties encountered without reaching the stage of a coup, because that would mean having to start all over again," Archbishop Rivera y Damas stated.

The prelate, who has been the chief promoter and mediator of a negotiated solution to the 7-year long civil war in this country, came out in defense of democracy in Latin America. "I do not know what objectives this rebellion has, if it is simply a demonstration of force to bring a halt to the trials of those military officers who were involved in the violation of human rights, or whether it sought to stage a coup d'etat to oust the president and return the situation to what it was before," he added.

The archbishop announced that a Salvadoran Catholic Church delegation will leave for the United States tomorrow to speak to the church hierarchy in that country in an effort to obtain "better treatment" for the thousands of Salvadorans who risk being deported in view of the Simpson-Rodino Law which will go into effect this coming May.

The delegation is composed of Marcos Rene Revelo, president of the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference, and Archbishop Rivera y Damas, who will meet with counterparts of the U.S. Episcopal Conference, among other religious authorities.

Within the framework of this official visit, the Salvadoran church will also receive recognition from UNICEF for the peace efforts in favor of the massive vaccination campaigns being carried out in that country since 1985. The Salvadoran church has been one of the institutions that has managed to reduce childhood diseases considerably through nine vaccination campaigns. During the vaccination campaigns, a truce has been achieved between the Army and the FMLN.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS 25 ARMY CASUALTIES IN ATTACK

PA210143 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0030 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] A report has just arrived at our station's guerrilla installations. We release it to our people. The FMLN has attacked the puppet Army in San Agustin.

At 0100 on 20 April, FMLN forces began an attack on a company of the misnamed Atonal Battalion headquarters in San Agustin. After 2 hours of combat, our units had severely beaten the Atonal troops. According to reports, Army reinforcements arrived at (?0230) from San Francisco but fell into a guerrilla ambush.

It has been reported to us from San Agustin that 25 casualties -- dead and wounded -- were inflicted on the Atonal troops. The 25 casualties include 1 sergeant and 2 subsergeants killed and 1 corporal wounded.

Your attention please. The following war materiels were seized in San Agustin: 2 U.S.-made M-16 rifles and 580 rounds of ammunition, 2 hand grenades, 8 knapsacks, and other supplies.

GUATEMALA

LIKELIHOOD OF ESQUIPULAS SUCCESS DISCUSSED

PA202309 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Apr 87 p 10

["T-mas" column by Jose Eduardo Zarco: "Further Disrespect"]

[Text] During June, Daniel Ortega, the controversial Nicaraguan leader, will visit Esquipulas to meet with his Central American colleagues so that together they can seek a solution that will lead to peace in the isthmus. The leaders will meet in the Black Christ Church a venerable Guatemalan religious icon.

Although some still refuse to believe that peace has not been achieved in Central America because of the pro-Soviet Nicaraguans' attitude of rejection, and even though proof has been presented showing their desire to end democracy and govern in their own way, it is undeniable that an article published in the 14 January Venezuelan newspaper EL NACIONAL points out at least 21 reasons why the Sandinists have blocked Contadora, the group trying to achieve what the Nicaraguans apparently do not want: peace based upon respect for other nations.

The document gives reasons, such as the 21 objectives, that the five Central American countries committed themselves to in September 1983. [sentence as published]

Basically, the document specifies the manner in which Ortega's government continually violates the Declaration of Human Rights principles and other agreements considered important to end the interventionism of the great powers.

It is true that in accordance with its policy of active neutrality, Guatemala should not or cannot intervene in whatever happens inside Nicaragua, but if due to Nicaragua's position, peace cannot be achieved in the area, another measure or policy should be adopted.

I am not suggesting we should go to war with our Central American brothers; that would not be the best solution, and it would be naive on our part to try and defeat one of the best equipped armies in Latin America.

This article does not offer any solution, because any solution suggested would be drastic (which is how it should be if success is to be achieved). [sentence as published] The article seeks to make known, once again, what is happening in response to the Sandinist position on peace and on the countries involved.

In general, only one reason is usually referred to concerning why Ortega's followers [Orteguistas] reject peace: the contras, who are involved with the Americans.

Obviously, the Soviet advice Nicaragua receives is equivalent to what the contras receive from the United States; in this aspect both the Sandinists and the counterrevolutionaries are "tied."

In regard to respect for life, the two sides commit atrocities (according to what is said) although there is a very significant difference: If we look at Guatemala's case we see it is usually the government that is accused of these violations; (ask Nineth) [Nineth Garcia, leader of the Mutual Support Group -- GAM]. In Nicaragua the government is not accused as often as the opposition forces. This is simply because of the influence the Soviet movement has on the so-called "defenders of rights" groups.

In regard to power, obviously, both groups want to run Nicaragua; one side already rules the country, but the difference is the scope of that power. The contras, if they really are democrats not Somozists, only want to govern Nicaragua.

The Sandinists are not satisfied with what they already have, and that is precisely why they want to expand their power to El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. They began their expansion a long time ago; that is why we once again have organized guerrilla groups in various parts of our country.

Although Roberto Carpio has insisted on holding the meeting inside the Black Christ Church, the miracle of achieving peace through negotiations and believing what Ortega says will not be possible. Ortega, like a good Marxist, does not believe in God, much less in the Christ of Esquipulas.

I have received a letter requesting, just as Humberto Madariaga, Mauricio Menendez, and Abundio Maldonado did, I make a statement against holding the summit meeting inside the Esquipulas church?" "Why should a political meeting be held inside a venerable church?"

I disagree with useless talks; much has already been said and nothing achieved.

Some say that thanks to Contadora a war has been prevented (the only thing it made possible was for Nicaragua to arm itself extremely well; the war never stopped).

They can talk all they want to, they can pretend and deceive those who allow themselves to be deceived; however, they should do it in the proper place and not in a place considered by the faithful to be God's house.

HONDURAS

LEGISLATORS, STUDENTS ON CONTRA PRESENCE

PA201958 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Apr 87 pp 18, 19

[Text] Nicaraguan border [dateline as published] -- Four contras in olive garb are in a primitive thatch hut in Capire, drinking beer and listening to the Nicaraguan tune "Pine Flower" on a phonograph left behind by displaced people when they abandoned the village.

Nearby the rebels have a "Strategic Command," their principal base, equipped with a barracks, a small helicopter landing strip, and a parking lot for trucks that supply them with food, weapons, and ammunition.

On Palm Sunday [12 April] Deputies Ruben Palma Carrasco (Christian Democrat) and Miguel Antonio Zelaya (Azconist) visited the border areas of Cifuentes, Las Trojes, Capire, Espanol Grande, and Arenales with university student group leaders.

Jaime Chavez, leader of the University United Democratic Front [FUUD] and representative of the law students of the Autonomous University before the Full Faculty, said: "We have seen that the contras are still here," contrary to official reports that the rebels are all fighting in Nicaragua now.

"We saw approximately 100 Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in uniform. They are members of the FDN -- as they themselves said -- and they were drinking alcoholic beverages, not fighting in Nicaraguan territory," he said.

Gazing toward the nearby Nicaraguan mountains, the student leader said: "As long as the counterrevolutionaries are in Capire, the Honduran Army and the civilian population will be endangered by Sandinist bombings."

Chavez said he learned from the civilian population that EPS members occasionally enter Honduran territory "searching for contras. That disrupts the tranquillity of the area."

"The displaced people said they have had to stay in Danli for up to 4 months because when the contras come they make them leave their homes. This is because when the contras arrive, the EPS bombs the area. Therefore, it is better to leave because their lives are in danger," the FUUD leader said.

During the tour, the visitors saw that while the Nicaraguan rebels occupy abandoned dwellings, the Honduran soldiers camp in trenches covered with canvas and plastic.

Chavez said: "We saw Honduran soldiers housed in tent camps. Approximately 100 meters from Capire the counterrevolutionaries wear uniforms and live in thatch and adobe dwellings."

"That means when it rains our soldiers are more exposed to the elements than the counterrevolutionaries," the student leader protested.

The Christian Democratic deputy agreed with Jaime Chavez that the contras have more conveniences than the Honduran soldiers.

"We were impressed and at the same time outraged to see how the border zone inhabitants live," he said. "Dwellings, schools, and a health center have been damaged."

He added that there are approximately 60 dwellings in Espanol Grande of which only 4 are inhabited. The rest were abandoned, as were the farms.

"We want to tell the Honduran people, those who still do not admit there are contras in our country, to visit Capire. We invite President Azcona, who has said he doubts there are contras in the country, to come here," Palma Carrasco said.

"The contras are here in Capire. We have spoken with them. They coexist normally with the townspeople, while the national Army does nothing to alter the situation," the Christian Democratic leader said.

He stressed that the Honduran civilian population is victim of a war "imposed by the United States."

Meanwhile, an anti-Sandinist known by the pseudonym Larry, who was traveling to the Zepeda community en route to the "Strategic Command," said: "President Azcona has been good to us."

"We have no complaints about him because he has supported us in everything we need," the Nicaraguan, who said he is a native of Matiguas, Matagalpa Department, said.

According to the anti-Sandinist rebel, the contras also receive cooperation from various National Congress deputies. "There are some," he said, referring to the Congress, "who are working with us." He refused to elaborate on this, however,

Another anti-Sandinist identified as Concepcion Hernandez Quinonez, "Commander Rabbit [Conejo]," from Nueva Segovia, said clearly: "If Daniel Ortega does not step down we will not quit because we have Ronald Reagan's support."

"We believe that with the support of democratic countries we are entitled to fight as armed peasants to overthrow communism," the counterrevolutionary pointed out.

He said the anti-Sandinists do not cause problems for the Honduran people of the border zone. He said he agrees that "those Nicaraguans who have problems should be punished by the law." [sentence as published]

"We are not short of food here because the Honduran authorities give us food," Rabbit admitted. He said he has participated in 19 clashes in Nicaragua in "5 years of collaborating with the FDN."

The deputies and university student leaders saw that the displaced people have not returned to their places of origin yet.

For example, it is estimated that approximately 40 families lived in Espanol Grande, but only 4 have returned. A native of Espanolito -- Pascual Montoya -- said he estimates that only 40 out of 4,000 families have returned.

Miguel Antonio Zelaya, the Azconist deputy of El Paraiso, who was another member of the group, said: "It is necessary for the contras to leave the country as soon as possible to restore peace in the area."

He said he has been negotiating with the government to obtain some aid for the displaced people. This aid has been channeled through CARITAS [a church organization], the Danli and El Paraiso municipalities, and the Apaguis cooperative.

"The government is doing everything possible to please these people, particularly by attempting to promote work in the area," the member of Congress said.

Ruben Palma said the people do not want to return to the border area "because life is worthless there." He said even the Honduran civilian population is "heavily armed," and "it is a lawless place."

He said the contras took over a thatched house in Capire, "where they get drunk and play a juke box at full volume and the Honduran soldiers do nothing to stop them."

ROSENTHAL ON MISMANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN AID

PA202225 Honduras Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Interview with Presidential Designate Jaime Rosenthal Oliva by newsman Julio Armando Valdes, place and date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Valdes] Some politicians of the traditional parties have said there are guidelines for devaluing the lempira. We asked Presidential Designate Jaime Rosenthal Oliva to give us his views on the matter.

[Rosenthal] I do not think there are guidelines for devaluing the lempira. I do think we must adopt some emergency measures in view of the worldwide economic situation.

[Valdes] You have harshly criticized the foreign aid sources. Were you referring to AID [Agency for International Development] or anyone in particular?

[Rosenthal] I have never mentioned AID only. However, the headlines of some newspapers want to create the impression that this matter solely concerns AID money. The money that has been lost in Honduras, whether due to mismanagement or theft, does not belong to any one person. It belongs to all Hondurans. Money enters the national treasury through diverse means. That is, Hondurans pay their taxes, the World Bank lends it to us, AID gives it to us, or it comes through other means. I have never mentioned any specific case. We cannot determine if a public employee stole AID money, or the tax money Hondurans paid with the sweat of their work, or the money that comes in as loans from other institutions. The idea is to correct the mistake. This is not a matter of quarreling with any institution or trying to start a quarrel among officials or friends of the same political tendency.

[Valdes] Are you prepared to submit the documents which you claim to have to the National Congress of the Republic?

[Rosenthal] I have those documents. I can introduce them anytime and anywhere. These are outlines of the funds Honduras has received over the past 5 to 15 years in loans and grants, who donated them, and why. If the money had been well spent, Honduras' situation would be very different from what it is today. I think that... [changes thought] those are the proofs I will introduce. This is what the Honduran people want. I will not accuse anyone of stealing, nor will I say that someone did not steal those funds. That is not my duty within the government.

[Valdes] As presidential designate, and based on the votes which elected you, will you be prepared to tell the National Congress the names of the people involved?

[Rosenthal] The documents I have do not mention any names. They state the source of funds, destination of those funds, and how they were spent.

[Valdes] Which institutions may become involved in this?

[Rosenthal] I think all of the government's institutions have some responsibility for the disaster of the foreign debt and the disposition of the resources we received.

[Valdes] When are you going to present your outline to the National Congress?

[Rosenthal] Whenever the deputies announce the place and time and to whom they want me to present it. The note the deputies sent me did not specify the date. I accepted their invitation. The Constitution does not compel me to, but I will be very glad to. Through the deputies, I will be going before all the people who voted for me.

[Valdes] Are all those economic anomalies the result of our country's current policies?

[Rosenthal] Not all of them. Some anomalies are the result of the current policies. Others were caused by improper actions, illegal profits, ineptitude, and lack of judgment of former government officials. In many cases there was a lack of information as to where expenditures could have had the greatest benefit for the people.

[Valdes] Don't you think such practices give a boost to revolutionary groups or proponents of violence in the country?

[Rosenthal] That is precisely the idea. We want to explain to the people what happened so that together we may make changes to keep this from happening again. We cannot go on fostering false hopes in the people.

[Valdes] Are watchdog offices inefficient?

[Rosenthal] I would not say they are inefficient. Many watchdog operations in our system are based on a number of things that do not always get to the crux of the problem. For example, why should an institution buy new vehicles all the time? Many of those purchases do not benefit Hondurans at all. It is simply because the institutions that give us aid say some funds must be spent on the purchase of vehicles. I think, based on our living standard in Honduras, many of us should be riding bicycles. We must make sacrifices to increase our national savings and make more investments and generate more jobs. Our national savings must grow in the public sectors. This is what we should strive for in the future.

NICARAGUA

CARRION ON POSSIBLE CONTRA ACTION DURING IPU

PA210106 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Apr 87 p 5

[Excerpts] Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion, deputy interior minister, during a night tour on Wednesday, 15 April, of two of Managua's zones, said the CIA mercenaries have brought explosives into the country to carry out sabotage and attacks against economic, social, political, and cultural objectives of the revolution. Therefore it is necessary to double revolutionary vigilance in the entire national territory.

Carrion, who is also a member of the FSLN National Directorate, pointed out that the plan of Reagan and his mercenaries is to cause such an outcry with their terrorist actions, that the contras will appear as a force to be reckoned with inside Nicaragua. "The objective is that the U.S. Congress will then approve more money for them to continue their campaign of state terrorism against Nicaragua," he warned.

Carrion emphasized that this new terrorist method is not accidental; rather, it is the result of the strategic defeat the armed people have been inflicting upon the counterrevolution. "It is easy to carry out this type of action with one or two people, making the mercenaries appear as a warlike military force within the country."

In view of this, Carrion urged the cadre leaders of the FSLN and the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee] to institute vigilance as an active and specialized mechanism to preserve the economic, social, and political objectives of popular power. [passage omitted]

Carrion sounded the alert about probable terrorist attacks that might take place in view of the presence of many international delegations that will participate in the 77th Conference of the IPU starting 27 April. He also issued a call to carry out a well-structured surveillance to neutralize the enemy. [passage omitted]

NICARAGUA

PRESIDENT ORTEGA ON 'FACE THE PEOPLE' PROGRAM

PA091324 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1634 GMT 7 Apr 87

["Face the People" program with President Daniel Ortega and agricultural producers from the presidential palace -- live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Ortega]... in view of the aggression faced by the country, we said that the plan had to be readjusted on the go. In other words, the idea was not to implement the plan in a mechanical and rigid manner but in a flexible way.

We convened a meeting today to follow up on the meeting held in January. At that time we learned about the main features of the plan, discussed it a little, and discussed existing tension within (?agricultural institutions). January, February, and March went by and it is now April. The first quarter has passed; we now have our sights on the second quarter.

We have finished the 1986-87 harvest and we are starting the plowing and sowing period of this new agricultural cycle. Meanwhile, our industry is working within its own limitations and resources.

In that period, that is, during these months, the prices of certain products continue to oscillate, as was the case in 1986. Wages did not change; we froze wages in 1986. We worked on the principle that by freezing wages and making an effort to guarantee the availability of workers, we would be protecting workers' real wages.

However, in 1986 inflation mounted; it increased mainly in the entire formal sector -- that is, in the sectors of agrarian and industrial production, services, infrastructure, and so on -- in the entire formal sector. That is where we could have some influence on wages and the distribution of certain basic products.

As for the implementation of plan (?87), [words indistinct] it has led us to readjust wages during the first half of April. In certain cases, this adjustment amounted to up to a 100-or 120-percent increase in wages. We are referring to wages within the most affected levels, particularly 1 through 11.

As we know, every time there are wage changes, not only illegal speculators but also potential speculators present even in certain state entities react to the wage adjustments and, in turn, create price movements that affect our measure; they negate any positive effects that the measure might have.

We know that this is one of the most sensitive problems troubling the large working class of our country at this moment. They are working in an organized manner in the formal sector. There is also the supply problem; we should say three supply [words indistinct].

Before delving into these measures, which are no longer the measures that will resolve the problems, we are interested in assessments from you who lead the various sectors of production in the country, your brief assessments of the results of the plan during the first months. What are your views regarding the implementation of the plan? What are the main points of tension in your respective fields? We also want to assess not only the negative aspects and problems, but also the positive aspects.

For this, we will follow a procedure whereby we will give the floor first to the companeros in charge of the agricultural and livestock sector. Later, the companeros in charge of the various fields will be given the opportunity to present their views. We are holding a working meeting that will enable us to have a good grasp of the way the plan is being executed and the most important problems you have detected. In this way, your opinions and assessments will enable us to better ensure the execution of the plan. After the agricultural sector participates, the various other branches will participate in the discussion such as UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] producers, who are here. Some enterprise directors will also participate. We will let some of them present their views. Now, we will begin with the companeros from the agricultural sector, specifically those in the field of coffee. They will be followed by the companeros of the cotton and sugar fields. This is how we will proceed. [passage omitted]

We have already listened to our comrades of the coffee and the [words indistinct] sectors. [passage indistinct] After the comrades of the various sectors talk, we will give the floor to the comrades of the labor union leadership of the CST [Jose Benito Escobar Sandinist Central Organization of Workers], CAUS [Labor Action and Unity Federation] Workers Front, [words indistinct] let us have a little bit of patience. Let us listen to the comrades of the sugar sector.

[Bustillo] Good morning, Comrade President. My name is Fermin Bustillo, and I am the secretary general of the German Pomares Sugar Mill. The 1986-87 harvest period has been one of the most difficult that the 20,000 workers trying to raise production have experienced. We have had serious problems, including halts in production due to a lack of vehicles and spare parts. We are here to tell the spare parts distributors like [name indistinct] that we know they have spare parts for trucks and that we have a lot of vehicles stopped because of the inefficiency or negligence of that distributing company. We have not received any spare parts. They have not allowed it. We have not been able to put our trucks into operations; and this is vital for completing the harvest.

We also want Agromac and [name indistinct] to be more active. We are also having serious problems with those enterprises.

At present we have completed 61 percent of the entire harvest. We will not fulfill our production goal, which was 760,000 quintals, because of the problems I have already pointed out. We expect to end our harvest with approximately 680,000 or 690,000 quintals. In other words, we will fulfill approximately 91 percent of our production goal. Obviously, all this depends on the winter rain. We are supposed to complete our harvest between 20 and 26 May.

We also demand a greater supply of various items for the commissary, especially shoes and clothes, because workers have not received any of those items for almost 4 months. This problem increases the workers' real salary, because they have to go to the black market. [sentence as heard] That is all.

[Ortega] Let us, comrade ministers, look into those very specific problems that are being presented here, such as the transportation situation presented by the comrades from the sugar mill or the supply problem and any other topic that is raised here. Please take notes about all these specific topics, because I need those notes to be able to answer those demands after all the representatives present their assessments. The reply to those demands is separate from the overall statements that we will make about the whole situation. [passage omitted]

Let us now talk with the trade union leaders of other organizations, such as [words indistinct] and the CST. Here is Alejandro Solorzano, secretary general of CAUS.

[Solorzano] Good afternoon. Several problems worth considering have been brought up here. I will now refer to the remarks by the CST comrade who said that his trade union has not been taken into consideration in setting the prices of the products in the area he is in charge of. This shows what has been said here is partially true, that workers do not actively participate through their trade union leaders, regardless of their orientation. What counts is to follow the slogan properly. What does all this boil down to? There are a number of problems familiar to both the cabinet and those of us who are here. This means that the participation of the Labor and the Construction Ministries and each of the branches involved is necessary, taking into consideration their ideas and views regardless of the political or ideological postures of the union leaders. However, their views about the inflation crisis that this country suffers should be considered. This crisis particularly burdens the salaried workers. Because of this, we have called for the Labor Ministry to serve as a bridge by summoning the trade unions and discussing with them salary and economic problems.

We must also discuss production planning taking into consideration Nicaragua's current reality. We will discuss the everyday war and blockade. There are many people here from other trade unions who also mobilize militarily with a patriotic spirit and with the purpose of living up to the homeland's expectations, and not to please anybody in particular. This is the duty of every one of us. It is also our duty to appeal that the ideas, views, and opinions of all the unions be taken into consideration. If any particular union is given a chance and does not present its ideas or views, this will be an indication that it does not agree with a solution to the country's economic situation.

We need to check the inflation crisis. Therein lies the secret to all these things -- planning. Workers have many ideas and opinions that could lead to checking this inflation crisis that affects the entire society but affects even more this country's salaried workers.

Why have the salary scales been discussed? These scales have not been discussed by all the unions involved, which represent more or less salaried workers who have elected the union leaders. For good or bad, they are their leaders and are also active members of the trade union movement. This is what the independent [words indistinct] has always presented to the labor minister. We are willing; listen to us. We have said the same thing to the Construction Ministry.

Unfortunately, sectarianism still corrodes the consciences of some of us workers and many an enterprise director, who do not want to sit down and discuss matters with this or that organization, but only with so and so. This goes against the country's economic development because sectarianism prevails. As a result, there is no way to tell the truth to this particular enterprise director except through "Face the People" attended by the commander and president, who listen to the things we discuss here.

We think that this program is a great lesson. Apart from this, however, we should form a commission involving all the trade unions to discuss with each of the branches the problems related to each of them. This is an official proposal hereby presented by the independent [words indistinct] so that all the trade unions can get involved and be made responsible for the effort to check the inflation crisis. Later we will gradually resolve the country's economic problems.

[Moreno] This is Roberto Moreno, leader of CAUS. We have come here because we are communist militants and understand that we must be wherever the workers' and people's problems are discussed. We did not come here, however, in the hope that salary and prices were to be discussed here according to the invitation we received.

In other words, we did not expect anything. We had rather sensed the way in which this discussion would be held. There was practically an opening speech, with a roll call and remarks by comrades who apparently did not know they were to speak in the order in which they did. We also had a closing speech, after some questions that the government cabinet answered for us. The closing speech has the disadvantage that those of us who view things differently here are always left waiting for the government's response through the president of the Republic, who always does it with arrogance, even with some lack of respect for us.

We were invited by the CST. I would like to ask the comrades from the CST not to bother calling on us for events other than their own. I understand that this event has been convened by the presidential office and it is the presidential office that should have invited us. This is why we have asked the presidential office to invite us rather than the CST. I think it is one thing to back a government, but it is quite another to be progovernment. The comrades at the CST should try to understand this. They are the main obstacle in the effort to attain unity of action, the unity of the workers. I think this should be corrected once and for all. Otherwise, we should decide that it will not be corrected for a long time.

To speak by sectors means only to speak about production in each of the enterprises, keeping in mind that the working class is interested in all that has to do with the revolution and the government's overall policy. We will not remain enclosed within the four walls of the plant where we work or the sector that interests us. Some have even spoken a bit unrealistically. It has been said that we are meeting production quotas, that we are willing to work harder, that we have even been working 12 hours a day, that economic brigades are to be formed, and that we will work during Holy Week. Eduardo Mora said it clearly here. It has been said the workers at Panatex will work during Holy Week. Mora very clearly said: The plant is about to close down simply because of a starch shortage. In other words, there is a great contradiction here. I would add: What a great lesson by an enterprise director. The trade unions should look at themselves on this and think: This has been said by a director, a trade union leader. A leader should think much more clearly.

We believe and are convinced that the participation of the workers is necessary. But, as we have said, both the salary and price policies have been settled. A change of views, however, is necessary. We cannot come here only to see faits accompli, express our opinion, and commit ourselves. There must be a complete change in the government's policy.

For example, speaking of salaries, [words indistinct] of the Labor Ministry's organic law, etc., the conclusion is always arrived at -- and the labor minister said it very clearly in the newspapers -- that now the workers can worry about their own business, which is to produce. In other words, everything else that you would worry about, such as salaries, collective contracts, occupational hazards, and so on, are the minister's concern, according to the Labor Ministry. If this conclusion were true, the labor unions would have no reason to exist.

In response to this we cannot remain passive. We are facing age-old problems, although I will not mention the years of struggle against Somozism because I believe they were common to all labor, democratic, and revolutionary organizations. For years we have had problems and we are still having problems, even with organizations that are present here today. The Trade Union of Farm and Peasant Workers of Matagalpa [Sindicato de Trabajadores Agricolas y Campesinos de Matagalpa -- Sitracam] in the La Reina area, Indiecito, and Guasaca in the struggle for lands has not had to confront the landowners but had to confront Carlos Zamora, government delegate in Region 6; Marden Castro, the agrarian reform zonal delegate in that sector; and the comrades from the UNAG and ATC [Association of Agricultural Workers], because their homes have been destroyed, a lot of their equipment has been burned, and some have been thrown off of the plots of land they have owned for many years. The Sitracam is not the 19 July movement. It has been organized since 1962, and furthermore -- and I am saying this so that you will know it, even if you laugh or whatever -- one of Sitracam's founders was Bernardino Diaz. I say this because he fought with the Sandinist comrades and so you will know what the Sitracam -- a departmental trade union -- is and was during the struggle against Somozism.

In view of the government delegates', UNAG's, and ATC's way of dealing with problems, we ask ourselves why this policy exists. It exists because the UNAG and ATC in that region do whatever they want to, apart from what the UNAG or ATC council or national executive secretariats decide. Comrade Carlos Zamora in Region 6 does whatever he wants to despite what the president may say. We want to investigate this; and we are going to request a meeting -- apart from this gathering -- at the government house to discuss this problem affecting the Sitracam.

I said earlier that upon ending a speech or listening to other speeches there is always the fact that one does not know if the government will respond constructively or in a sectarian manner. It is quite common that when labor unions state their positions and opinions in regard to problems to a sympathizer, they receive the same answer about playing up to imperialism, for example. I believe one has to be ignorant or very stupid not to take the war into consideration when discussing these issues. The war is taken into account by our enemies, our allies, those of our class, and everyone. No one here is oblivious to this reality, and anyone who speaks of a problem is not forgetting the war. However, we are constantly accused of playing up to the imperialists or being infiltrated by the CIA, for example, simply because we state our objection to something that we disagree with, when we have every right to disagree.

It is also very common to say that some problems are discussed with the CST and ATC, and not with the CAUS, CGT [General Labor Confederation], or other trade unions because it is enough to speak to the large unions. The current government's repression of our union has been forgotten. In 1980, CAUS communist and labor leaders were incarcerated for disagreeing with the government, and in 1981 we were again jailed and some factories, such as [words indistinct] were declared bankrupt, thus dissolving their unions. The Atmospheric Products Co. was taken over by state security forces and the militia, and an endless number of companies were closed. We requested the expropriation of the Modern Plastics Company, and we provided evidence of its decapitalization, which at that time surpassed 7 million cordobas -- which today is not considered a large amount but at that time was a great deal -- and we proved this with a 5,000-page document that we presented at the Justice Ministry. Nevertheless, the company was not expropriated. Because of this struggle for expropriation, three of the top communist and CAUS leaders were sentenced to 27 months in jail. The objective of these actions was to annoy the CAUS union and reduce our membership because they disagreed with our views.

They have a right to disagree, but not the right to destroy a revolutionary trade union that represents the interests of large sectors of the population.

We believe that other governments could be interested in destroying our labor organization, but not this government. The FSLN should not. I have discussed this problem because I believe it is advantageous to do so. I have not discussed the government's salary or price policies because they have already been settled. Whatever I say here on behalf of the CAUS has no value after seeing how things are managed here.

We have opinions on salaries and have wanted to express them. We asked the weekly AVANCE to publish three articles on our initial appraisals of the government salary policy and the three were completely censored by the Communications Media General Directorate.

Why don't we have the right to express ourselves? Why should the ideological struggle or the struggle of ideas be feared? Moreover, we have only a weekly; that is, it is issued once a week. And here there are other media that support the government which are issued daily with large circulations. Not only is there the print media, but also radio and television. Therefore, if it is a matter of resources to confront an ideological war, the government, FSLN and other parties have more. We only have that one. That one is enough for the time being; however, we should be allowed to present our opinion through that weekly AVANCE.

How can there be a workers movement? How can there be worker participation if we cannot speak or if we cannot mobilize? In the articles on salaries, we based our positions on the rights stated in the Constitution. One of the articles demanded that the Constitution be respected. That was the article on the nonsequestration of salaries. And a simple act added the word "minimum": on the nonsequestration of minimum salaries. That was a complete change of meaning. It is a change that affects the decision and the will of this legislative body, the National Assembly; it is a trick, a crime that should be punished. We were asking that the Constitution be respected; and that article was also sanctioned. That means that our opinion cannot be set forth here. However, we will obviously go and set them forth at factories. We will go set them forth to the trade union movement. And we will set them forth to the people. Because one of our characteristics as a union central organization is to be closely connected with workers every day and every hour.

[Unidentified Workers Front representative] [Booing from audience] Good morning, comrades. Our trade union central organization, the Workers Front, appears today on "Face the People." In addition to making analyses, we bring a concrete proposal, and we believe that fact will someday be understood, despite the shouting. Based on the fact that we were invited to a "Face the People" program during which, by the very nature of the meeting, various answers are customarily given, we believe that it is also necessary for the government to answer various questions and respond to some of the concrete proposals we will make today.

Without making too many analyses of the price and salary problem, which is by now an everyday problem for workers, we have a question: Who is pocketing the difference between salaries and prices? Money does not vanish. Money does not vanish into thin air. This accumulation goes somewhere. The purchasing power that workers are gradually losing in their salaries, the standard of living the workers are increasingly losing is counterbalanced by the fact that someone is getting rich. The counterbalance is that someone is retaining privileges and someone is getting more privileges [words indistinct].

Therefore, we believe that this is a key problem that must be discussed and that it is not necessary, as Commander Ortega said at the last meeting we held right here, that Lenin be read in order to do so. Keynes, Adam Smith, or any other bourgeois theoretician can be read to find the explanation that when workers earn less, the bourgeoisie gets richer. This is without needing to read Lenin, without reading Marx. This is so we will not be told later that we are doctrinaire. That is learned during freshman year at the university.

In that vein, we want to point out the following, asking the government comrades a question: How many billions of dollars have been turned over to private businessmen as incentives in 8 years of revolution? We would like to see if it is possible to get this answer today, and see whether it is possible that he who gives us the answer will also be able to convince us that workers have received an equal share of that.

A question for the comrade foreign trade minister: Everyone is talking now about the drop in coffee prices. I ask whether this drop in coffee prices will fall on the big private coffee growers, or whether the government, through price guarantees, will continue to guarantee that even if international coffee prices go down those businessmen will continue to maintain their profits?

Who assumes this difference? The state surely assumes it. However, the state, as an apparatus, is not a producer of wealth. It is assumed by the workers; and more directly, it is assumed by workers who work on the coffee harvest.

These are questions we must ask ourselves and answer. We must not answer in a sectarian or dogmatic way, because someone can say here what they have said other times: that this revolution is a revolutionary that is why imperialism is attacking it. However, imperialism is attacking this revolution not only because some initial progress has been made, but because the imperialistic mentality attacks bourgeois democratic processes anywhere in the world. [booing]

And for those who are laughing, it is enough for them to realize how imperialism, in its latest phase, supported the ouster of Somoza. Moreover, Somoza termed Carter a communist. Imperialism promoted the ouster of Marcos in the Philippines. Imperialism promoted the ouster of Duvalier in Haiti. What does that mean? That imperialism has reasons to attack certain processes. In our concrete case, it is attacking the Nicaraguan workers' willingness and attitude for defense and progress. When the U.S. Government, when imperialism attacks us, it is attacking this willingness that we have. It is not attacking the incentives that the government gives the bourgeoisie in dollars. It is attacking this combative attitude that you have manifested. That is why it is attacking us. It is not attacking us because the foreign trade minister gives dollars to cotton or coffee growers. It is the other way around. The more they attack us, the more profit they [not further identified] give them to see if they [not further identified] stop attacking us.

We have several questions -- actually several proposals for the government, in this case -- and others directed at workers. First, we want to point out that the current salary, price, and supply problems did not arise overnight. Now everyone is kicking up a fuss because it has become an enormous problem. However, this problem did not become this big beginning today. It was small, and grew. One need not be a Leninist, either. This is a dialectical problem. Problems grow, develop, and get worse.

[laughter] Therefore, to say that workers really have problems now, that there are really supply problems bow, is to try to shut one's eyes to a problem that has existed for a long time. When we, as a trade union central organization, said that it was necessary to make periodic salary adjustments for workers, many of those who are laughing now called us pseudoeconomists. However, now they are waiting for another increase from the government. I ask you: Are you pseudoeconomists now?

The Interior Trade Ministry has said that we must struggle against speculation, and it says: We will eliminate barriers [tranques]. A number of measures are adopted, many of which contradict one another. This is producing the darkness that many workers have. Two or 3 days ago BARRICADA said that workers must get explanations. I do not know whether you are laughing because this is extremely clear or because you are confused. [booing] There has been a process of worsening of those problems.

We ask the government to respond to the following proposal. Those periodic readjustments the government has been talking about are not an innovation. The government did it in 1985. You recall that in 1985 there were three salary readjustments. Therefore, this is not a new formula. Nor is the government now (?the Workers Front). This is not a new formula. The problem is that these periodic readjustments have two problems. One is a formal problem [words indistinct] regarding time. That is, the salary increases are normally granted after prices have increased. The second is a content problem, which is that those salary readjustments are always less than the price increases. These two problems must be resolved.

When we speak about salary readjustments we are referring to time and content. The salary readjustments must be based on the establishment of a minimum family basket, and the salary readjustments must be able to keep workers afloat above the constant cost of living increases.

To this effect, our second proposal is that a family basket -- different from the kind of basket that Comrade Benedicto Meneses manages from his desk, as a CST comrade once said -- be established. This basket should be based on the real prices, because a family basket based on the official MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] prices is quite different, and you kow it.

The price of this family basket should be established based on the supplies the government is able to meet. It should also take into consideration the existence of a free market that the government is actually supporting. Many workers complement their needs in this free market. If I need 10 lbs of rice per month for my family, and the government only gives me 5 lbs, then my wages should allow me to purchase 5 lbs of rice in a supply center and 5 lbs of rice at the price it is sold at in the supermarkets, that is, some 1,000 pesos [currency as heard]. Thus, salaries must be established in such a manner that we can be able to cope, more or less, with the high cost of living.

However, if salaries are established based on official prices, and we take into consideration the incompetence of the government to meet all supply needs, then this is unrealistic.

We also pointed out that a minimum basic salary should be established for the workers under any conditions. If there are problems with electricity and there has been a power outage this does not mean the worker stops eating, nor does this keep him from getting ill. So why should a worker stop receiving his salary because there have been power outages, or because there have no raw materials available due to the incompetence of the director of an enterprise? A worker must be paid his minimum salary under all circumstances. It is almost similar to the problems affecting the bourgeoisie. If coffee prices drop on the international market, no problem; the government always maintains the price of Nicaraguan coffee to benefit the producer. Why doesn't the government do this with the workers?

We also pointed out the following -- and this is not a decree problem, this is a problem of political willingness: When we pointed out that a decree should be issued freezing prices, we were not just referring to the president of the Republic, or the national assembly issuing a decree freezing prices. I need that decree to attack anyone violating that decree. If I do not have that instrument -- that decree -- what do I use as a weapon, as a comrade just said? I need a legal instrument, but basically a political instrument in this case, to defend myself from the rising prices. As we see, this is not a [word indistinct] problem, it is a problem of political willingness. Once the decree is issued freezing salaries [as heard], the workers movement can use that legal instrument and mobilize against the rising prices. Therefore, issuing that decree is not a bureaucratic problem. I am merely pointing out: Give me that instrument, and with that instrument I am going to struggle in the streets with the workers movement, so it will not be thought that we are just saying mere words.

In the fifth place, we pointed out the following: Who established the family basket prices in this country and based on what criteria? We ask the same question concerning the minimum salary; how much is a pair of shoes going to cost, how much is a pair of trousers going to cost? Who establishes those prices? In addition to the fact that there is a problem of costs and so forth, there is also a political problem. The workers -- who are the ones confronting these problems in a specific manner on a day-to-day basis -- should also have a say in establishing those prices. That is an element that affects workers.

As a comrade said here, we came here to speak, and if I speak here, nothing will happen to me. But what will happen in the factory? What happens in the factory when we try to have this type of discussion? Later on, I am going to make a specific announcement so you can see how it is easy to come here and speak; that is the truth. However, the situation is entirely different in the factories and work centers. As we understand it, the efforts and participation of the workers should be specifically taken into consideration in more than just theory, but in the (?constitution).

We said that we must combat inflation. Although it is true that there are external factors affecting inflation, there are certain specific mechanisms that should be used to at least try to halt inflation. We are aware of the fact there is worldwide capitalist inflation affecting the more developed countries. No one can deny that fact. An effort must be made to do something about inflation.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias is trying to cope in some way with the inflation affecting his country. We all know who President Arias is. We must confront the Nicaraguan inflation problem in a manner different from the way in which the bourgeois countries and political parties handle their inflation problems. We have a revolutionary process here. There are deliberative workers in this country, and there are combative workers. Therefore, some measures must be taken to handle the problem our way.

Concerning that situation, we propose the following:

First in order to fight inflation: Suspend immediately the excessive distribution of cordobas and dollars that the government has been handing out to the great private businessmen. We have the case of the comrade at the Central Bank who everytime there is no money, I imagine he just cranks up the little machine, and that is that. He does everyone a favor, but he is creating inflation, and these are conscientious [as heard] measure that are being adopted. This large amount of cordobas and dollars distributed to the large enterpreneurs have a very serious inflationary effect on the country's economy.

Second, we believe it is necessary for the government -- and particularly for the People's Ownership Sector [APP] -- to allot more resources to the production of basic grains, and even to the production of articles that are basic necessities. For the sake of respecting the large private enterprises, etc, we are confronting more all the time, the government [words indistinct] property that was confiscated, or that it was feared was going to be confiscated, or that the enterprise is being decapitalized. We believe that in all this the opposite should be true.

If we have a supply problem here, and the workers are making demands, why should the government worry about what a certain bourgeois thinks if all the workers have not made the demand? [sentence as heard] If that is the case, then we believe that the government should reassign priorities in the distribution of its resources so that we can decide what should be done.

The rainy season is coming soon, the rainy season is coming soon. There should be a watchword not to the effect that only [words indistinct] be left without planting. However, other people are allowed to produce other things, and they are allowed to keep their profit margins.

We also think it necessary to suspend immediately a series of privileges, a series of privileges that state officials enjoy.

Just to cite an example: Everyone here knows that state officials receive their Christmas bonuses in dollars. This was even said publicly on one occasion. I would like to ask one question: What should be the attitude of a revolutionary minister when he becomes aware of problems that are being brought up? Rather, what that government organization's attitude be? They should shoulder in the same manner the consequences of this crisis. However, we do not see that. Quite the contrary, an appeal was recently made here by the presidency of the republic that all luxury vehicles were going to be put away because there were far too many. Now I ask you, while we are fighting with (?Junior) Ramirez so he would give us some buses, the government says that many Toyota Cressidas have arrived. These Cressidas are purchased with dollars. The ministers, the vice ministers, and so forth are the ones driving these Toyotas. Thus, we are not all suffering the effects of the crisis in the same way.

In that regard, we believe there should be a policy of greater restrictions on the state organization, and an attitude of revolutionary commitment of at least those who are present here today, as well those who are outside.

We have another proposal. We have heard here the comrade of FANATEX [National Textile Factory]. The comrade director of FANATEX has nothing to do with the Workers Front, and he spoke in such a [word indistinct] manner of how the country is now managing the problem of obtaining investments in dollars.

Now, there is much talk about Montelimar, about this and that, and there is a fever over the hotel industry, trying to obtain resources and so forth. To that we point out that such an activity will presumably attract bourgeois people, because I cannot imagine that any proletariat from any part of the world will come here to stay at the Intercontinental [Hotel] or at Montelimar with the prices that [name indistinct] is charging. [laughter] Then, we believe that such an activity should be heavily taxed so it will also serve to finance certain needs. There could even be a special tax for financing the war. Let us see if those people are then going to come here to enjoy staying at the Montelimar Hotel, and will assume in a conscientious manner that every cup of coffee they drink will provide one centavo to finance the war. Let us see if that will work.

There is another thing we want to bring up. We believe that the institutional framework of the government should also assume an attitude of commitment of respecting its own institutional framework. We are not referring to just the political constitution of the republic. In this case, we are going to refer to the Labor Ministry. There is a Somozist labor code here. There are regulations about trade union associations of the same type. There is a political constitution that says freedom of association must be respected, etc, etc, etc. However, comrade (Jose Centneo) -- a comrade from the Workers Front from Chichigalpa -- was arrested by the Chichigalpa police chief; he was beaten by the Chichigalpa police chief, (Alejandro Moraledis). He was also beaten by a police officer named (Gorriz Harris), and by a state security lieutenant in Chichigalpa, all trying to get him to withdraw from the Workers' Front ranks. They claim it was impossible for workers to be [words indistinct] from the Workers Front.

We made a public charge. We formally protested in Chichigalpa, and nothing was done about those charges. We believe that violations are being committed against the institutional organization, particularly concerning the trade union's democracy.

We have another proposal to make so it will make sense for us to come here and converse, and that some agreements will be reached. Back in 1981, we pointed out that there was an attempt to form a government commission with the various trade unions. That was done at the time when Comrade (?Virgilio) Godoy was labor minister. [laughter]Now, everyone calls him a [word indistinct], but nobody called him that when he was minister.

At that time, there was an attempt to form a government commission with the various trade unions so that all workers organized in the various trade unions could have a true opportunity to discuss a series of problems and a series of measures, such as the ones we have been mentioning.

To that effect, we hereby propose that a government commission be formed -- which could delegate any official or any institution -- with the trade unions so all agreements or commitments that will directly benefit the workers can be discussed, carried out, and implemented with the participation of all the trade unions.

In conclusion, I just want to make an appeal to the workers. Those reactions you have had -- some have laughed -- are just mere expressions of sectarianism in some cases. Now, aside from that, whether a comrade here is a Sandinist militant or is not a militant of the Marxist-Leninist party of Nicaragua, we are all being affected by common problems. The main problem is aggression.

However, all workers, all workers -- regardless of our political affiliation -- have the same problems concerning salaries, supplies, aggression, the Labor Ministry, etc, etc, etc. Thus, I want to leave it clearly established here that the Workers Front wants to call for the unity of the workers movement's rank and file. It is not the same that only the leaders meet, and that when we meet each other we just say hello. That is not enough. We must unite the workers movement -- regardless of political affiliation -- to struggle united against the high cost of living, imperialist aggression, and its local and dometic effects. The imperialist aggression is not just an external problem; it also has a local expression here. It is found in rightist political parties, and there is a series of institutions through which it attacks our people. That is our call. Thank you very much.

CARDENAL PREDICTS WAR COULD END 'THIS YEAR'

PA201435 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1051 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Vienna, 20 Apr (EFE) -- Nicaraguan Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal believes the war in his country "could end this year," due to the weakening the Sandinist priest has noted in the contra aid.

In an interview published in the latest edition of Austrian weekly WOCHENPRESSE, which also includes remarks by the owner of the banned Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA, Cardenal bases his prediction on, among other things, the recent "scandals in the White House."

According to the Sandinist leader, the changes that have taken place resulting from the recent congressional elections in the United States and the "loss of favor" of the CIA could mean a reduction in aid to the rebels.

"The moment the contras stop getting more aid, the war will end," Cardenal states. Cardenal reiterated his criticism of the Catholic hierarchy in Nicaragua.

The Sandinist leader feels the majority of people in Nicaragua are Catholics and continue to support the revolution.

However, Violeta Chamorro, the director of the banned LA PRENSA newspaper, stated to the Austrian weekly that there is no press freedom in Nicaragua, and voiced her concern that "with this government, there will never be free elections."

Chamorro dismissed accusations linking the closed newspaper to the armed opposition of the Nicaraguan Government as "mere propaganda" by the Sandinists.

According to the owner of the newspaper, who disclosed that she had to fire 185 out of 230 LA PRENSA employees, "The Sandinists call anyone who does not cooperate with them, contras."

CASTRO CRITICIZES U.S. TRADE PRACTICES

FL201611 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Attended by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 has opened at the Palace of Conventions. Argentine Planning Minister Bernardo Grispun delivered the opening remarks. Referring to his country, he said that it had just overcome a difficult situation. Mr Grispun gave thinks for world solidarity for his country and said that those present would be listening to Fidel's words with attention because they would certainly be a valuable contribution to the meeting. Some 600 delegates from more than 100 countries and international organizations are taking part with the objective of adopting a unified position in the forthcoming UNCTAD session.

The commander in chief stated: It is a great honor for Cuba to host the UNCTAD preparatory meeting. We declare our country's invariable disposition to help as much as possible to make the meeting a successful one. He pointed out that the meeting could be described as decisive for the countries attenting. The economic and social crisis has always been present but never with such force and so many adverse effects, making UNCTAD's existence a precarious and subsistent one. The position of the current U.S. Administration was manifested in the last UNCTAD meeting in Belgrade. The United States dismissed the UNCTAD as a forum for negotiation and even boycotted it.

The effects of the crisis have brought the world to a crossroads, Fidel said. He asserted that the United States continues to handle the dollar's level in terms of its interests only, without caring at all about the inevitable effects that this manipulation has on other countries. Inflation continues to rise in the Third World nations, Fidel said, noting that the inflation index had gone from 65.1 percent in 1983 to 152.4 percent in 1985. He added that in the financial field, the flux of resources to the Third World has diminished. That the foreign debt is impossible to pay is a fact that no one disputes, Fidel declared. He listed the reasons that have made it impossible for the underdeveloped world to pay its foreign debt, and pointed out that servicing on the debt each year has gone up to $118 billion. Referring to the forthcoming UNCTAD meeting, the commander in chief stated his belief that it will face a difficult situation, one of the reasons being the parasitic way of life of the most powerful capitalist state -- the United States.

The prices of our exports have plummeted; markets have been closed behind strong protectionist barriers raised by the same people who demand punctual payment from us. This means that the more we pay, the more we owe, Fidel declared. After denouncing the IMF policy, the commander in chief stressed that it is no longer enough to renegotiate our payments at the cost of mortgaging out future. It is no longer a matter of being robbed of financial resources that we do not have. It is now a matter of stealing our factories, mines, and enterprises, which would pass into foreign hands. Three adverse elements today exist in the international market: plummeting prices, intensified exchange, and protectionism.

Fidel charged that the prices of basic products have suffered a veritable collapse in the last 3 years; in 1986 they fell to their lowest level since the crisis of the twenties. He noted that the transnationals continue to be active in controlling basic products, including transportation. To the abrupt drop of basic products, you have to add the reduced possibilities of buying manufactured products, which we call unequal trade, he stressed. Fidel recalled how a tractor could be bought in 1979 with 24 tons of sugar. You needed 115 to buy one in 1986, and to be able to buy it in 1987 you would need 133 tons of sugar, he explained.

Speaking about the effects of unequal trade between the underdeveloped and capitalist nations, Fidel said it was an unfair economic order that condemns millions of people to a life of hunger. He termed this inhumane and intolerable. The present commerce law of the United States, he said, provides a basis for the protectionist surge to continue to swell and it also means a wave of reprisals against trade. Fidel gave as an example of protectionism the fact that the United States was importing 15 million metric tons of sugar in 1981 while in 1986 it purchased only 1 million tons abroad. This is a virtual closing of its sugar market.

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ON GROUP OF 77 MEETING

PA180334 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Interview with Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, president of the Cuban delegation to the Group of 77 ministerial meeting, by Alberto Martinez; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Minister Cabrisas, could you please explain what the basic topics of the meeting will be?

[Cabrisas] In this Group of 77 meeting, which will be held in Havana, the basic topics to be discussed will be the ones concerning the problems of stimulating development, especially in international trade. The resources for development, including financial and monetary aspects, will also be discussed. Of course, a topic that is of great importance for developing countries, especially for Latin America, will be the discussion of staple goods. Certainly the topics on international trade will be very important in this meeting. The topics regarding trade between developing countries and socialist countries will be important as well. In matters of trade with socialist countries there still are economic and trade potentials that can be exploited, especially during these times in which our countries are seeking new markets for their exports, in view of protectionist policies adopted by developed capitalist countries. These protectionist policies are used against our countries. Another important topic that will be discussed is the problems faced by underdeveloped nations, which have increased in number from 31 countries in 1981 to 40 countries at present.

[Martinez] Cuba has had to prepare for this meeting in a little over a month, hardly enough time. How are the preparations going, and how many countries are expected to attend?

[Cabrisas] Actually, this meeting was not scheduled to be held in Latin America. Upon the request of the Group of 77 in Geneva, Cuba offered to hold the meeting. Unlike other meetings in the past, we have only had a little over a month to organize the meeting. Fortunately, we can say that everything is almost ready for the meeting to begin. Currently, more than 75 countries and over 50 representatives of international economic organizations have confirmed their attendance.

[Martinez] Do you believe that the goals of the meeting will be accomplished?

[Cabrisas] Yes. As a result of the Latin American regional meetings that have already taken place in San Jose, Costa Rica, the Asian regional meetings that were held in Dhaka, and the African regional meetings that were held in Addis Ababa, we can see there is an awareness of the topics of the agenda. Of course, this will facilitate the discussions in the meeting.

He will be drafting a final document that will be taken to Geneva, and it will contain our priorities. As you may know, all the topics included in the agenda are of priority to the Group of 77. Each region may have a different set of priorities, but we can say that there is somewhat of a consensus in this regard.

[Martinez] Thank you very much, Minister Cabrisas, for your statements to Radio Havana Cuba.

CASTRO SENDS LETTER OF SUPPORT TO ALFONSIN

FL172324 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Telephone report from Buenos Aires by Orlando Contreras]

[Next] The Argentine media have published a letter sent by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and the Government of the Republic of Cuba, to President Raul Alfonsin. The letter reads as follows:

We have learned of the events that threaten the democracy and security of the Argentine nation and we have heard your brave and firm words which undoubtedly convey the feelings of the nation and express the strong determination not to retreat from the democratic and procivilian path that the Argentines have retaken and decided to maintain. We would like to extend the solidarity of the Cuban people. We are certain that with the evident support you are receiving from all the democratic forces made up for by the overwhelming majority of Argentines, you will be able, with integrity, honesty, and determination, to stop those who are trying to take Argentina back to the days of pain and bloodshed.

Cuba wishes you success in this decisive endeavour and hopes that under your leadership and with the required national unity, which has already been manifested, the Argentines will be able to overcome this unjustifiable threat.

I greet you with respect for your stance and with friendship, Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba.

Comments on Military Rule

PA190440 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The year 1930 in Argentina marked the appearance of a phenomenon that would initiate a long, frustrating period for the entire nation: military coups and the rise to power of a class whose influence is still felt today. In that year General Jose Felix Uriburu headed a coup that overthrew President Hipolito Yrigoyen. That action, which was caused by the most reactionary sectors of the Armed Forces, brought the country face to face with a series of military governments that generally means a lack of constitutional guarantees, repression, and the strengthening of the military.

In times of dissension and to show their bitter humor, the Argentines have said that the military is as common as mate [a tea-like beverage]. However, this is not a time for jokes, and all Argentines are aware of what would happen if the Armed Forces return to power, especially when only a little over 3 years of civil government have passed.

We can firmly say with much awareness that the time between 1976 and 1983 was the darkest period of Argentine history. State terrorism, the visible side of national security, penetrated all sectors, and no less than 30,000 were victims.

To reiterate the inhuman methods with which the numerous parliamentary groups raided Argentine homes would be a cruel and well-known thing.

Because of their good memory, Argentines support President Raul Alfonsin's decision to bring to trial a large number of those who committed crimes against mankind. That is precisely the cause of the military's unrest, which has long been expressed in rumors, attacks, and other incidents with which they have tried to influence the government to suspend the trials and to announce an amnesty of the offenders.

The III Army Corps with headquarters in Cordoba Province is the center of the present conspiracy, and one must recall that this corps was also one of the main organizers of the past repression in Argentina. The history of all the plots started by this Army corps is long, but we only want to mention this military district as being the previous territory of former Commander Luciano Benjamin Mendez. This military official, known as the hyena, who is currently in jail for being repressive, created torture camps in Cordoba that later became the prototype of concentration camps later built throughout the country. Major Ernesto Barreiro, member of the III Army Corps, who was dismissed by the government after refusing to appear before a civil court, was involved in the incidents perpetrated in a concentration camp in Cordoba.

The rebellions and the conspiracies aimed at influencing the authorities to suspend the trials are the arguments of today's putschists, whose intentions are no different from previous ones: to maintain the country under the military boot.

GRENADIAN GOVERNMENT ON 'VERGE OF COLLAPSE'

PA200248 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The sequel to the U.S. invasion of Grenada is the government of the decrepit prime minister, Herbert Blaize, leader of the no less decrepit New National Party. The invasion was intended to create stability on the small Caribbean island, which had been seriously hit by the terrible events that led to the murder of government leader Maurice Bishop and the brutal entry into the country of the U.S. occupation forces.

Blaize played the role of a parody of a democrat truly at Washington's services. However, his dreams of peace ala the United States were destroyed within a few months. The United States itself contributed to this because once its political-military objective in Grenada was achieved, it detached itself from the serious social and economic problems caused by the October 1983 invasion.

Herbert Blaize's integrity has deteriorated lately to the point that today his so-called New National Party is on the verge of collapse, just as is his controversial term at the head of the Grenadian Government. The prime minister is now confronted with the resignations of Francis Alexis, attorney general and justice minister [name and title as heard], and George Brizan, education minister [name and title as heard], who oppose Blaize remaining in power until 1989, as stipulated in the current laws. What is most serious about these resignations is that Alexis heads the Grenada Democratic Movement, and George Brizan is leader of the National Democratic Party; both parties joined the government party during the elections called by the occupation forces in 1984. Such a desertion could create a crisis for the government and the political organization that prevails; this at a time when the prime minister is also confornted with a strong popular rejection as a result of his mistaken economic practices.

Blaize insists that 1,800 public employees must be dismissed, and has refused to give these employees the $5 million in salary increases approved 2 years ago. This has created an explosive situation on the island. In fact, the New National Party has lost ground within Parliament to the extent that if 3 years ago its majority was 14 to 1, today the ratio is 9 to 6.

The presence of paramilitary units from other Caribbean islands in Grenada, called under the pretext of fighting crime, seems to be the only factor that maintains the weak lifeline sustaining Herbert Blaize. The general crisis in Grenada, which has resulted in an unemployment rate of more than 40 percent, and the almost complete deterioration of education and public heath services, find new expression in this battle for the control of power carried out by figures close to Washington.

Meanwhile, former dictator Eric Gairy's desire for power is still alive, and is a negative factor that should be considered part of Grenada's political panorama. However, despite the tension caused by these problems, many observers trust in the Grenadians' combative spirit, demonstrated during the glorious days of the revolution of March 1979. They will definitely have the last word against Washington and its Latin followers.

COLOMBIA MIGHT RESUME TRADE RELATIONS SHORTLY

FL201230 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Cuba and Colombia might shortly resume trade relations, broken since 1981. Samuel Alberto Yohai, director of the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute, is in Havana to initiate the required contacts. The official was instructed on his mission by the government of President Virgilio Barco Vargas.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM UJC FIFTH CONGRESS, PART 2

FL201407 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0103 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Part 2 of the "highlights" of the proceedings of the Fifth Union of Young Communists, UJC, Congress held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana, 1-5 April -- all delegates identified by caption -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Dulce Maria Hernandez from the Higher Institute of Art [ISA]] There is no doubt that all that has been brought up at this meeting, what Caridad [Caridad Diez] and Comrade Balmaceda [Ramon Balmaceda] said is true. There are many things that contribute to this. Caridad mentioned the money problem. This is a real problem. For example: The ISA's School of Plastic Arts - and I know this because I was an art instructor at the UJC's Art School in Cubanacan before I became the secretary general of the ISA -- are facing many problems because of the lack of money. This problem has resulted in the dropping of programs from our curriculum. [passage omitted]

Commander, we keep hearing that Cuba is going to become a Latin American power and a cultural power. I do not think that we should be saying this. It is not true. We must not be dreamers. I know that a revolutionary must be a dreamer, but there are things that we still cannot dream of. The field of the arts is one of the most expensive fields there is. [passage omitted]

I wish to add that the party and UJC members can do much to improve this situation. The UJC and the party have not played their role properly in the formation of young artists. There is much to be done in this area. The community of artists must have training. They must also be determined to resolve all those petit bourgeois problems that are remnants of capitalist art. Something must be done. [applause]

[Castro] How many students does the ISA have?

[Hernandez] Commander, 404 students attend our day classes.

[Castro] I understand that there are 58 schools.

[Hernandez] Yes.

[Castro] This means that the situation at some of these schools is really bad. I ordered that these schools be visited; however, we have found no solution to the problem. I asked for information regarding the number of students, what they are studying, what they are doing. I heard that they are having some problems with the food; that they are not receiving their basic materials; and all sorts of other problems. The art schools are being neglected. Some of the buildings have not been finished. The Santiago de Cuba building has not been completed.

I recall when the plans were drafted for the vocational schools, the Camilitos [Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational Schools] schools, and the teachers schools. Plans were also drafted for the physical education schools. These plans included the arts schools. However, when the actual construction began, the most affected were the CEIDI [expansion unknown] and the art schools. Before that many schools had been built; the rural secondary schools and pre-universities. These schools were all built in the provinces. But several restrictive measures were implemented in those days and after the restrictions were lifted, we began to experience a delay in the completion of the works. Perhaps we could ask the part and the mini-brigades to help in the completion of the school.

[Ivette Regueiro] I am the secretary general of the National School of Ballet.

[Hernandez] National vanguard. They do not have a school but they are national vanguard. [laughter]

[Regueiro] The problem we have is the following: We do not have a school. We work there [not further explained] every morning from 0700 to 1330. They lend us their classrooms. However, the building belongs to the Cuban National Ballet and to the Lyric Arts Institute, under the direction of Prima Ballerina Alicia Alonso. Every 3 months we must pay 30,000 pesos for the use of the classrooms yet we all do the same thing; we dance.

[Castro] Where do you practice?

[Regueiro] Ballet.

[Castro] Where?

[Regueiro] The lyceum.

[Castro] Where is the lyceum located?

[Regueiro] In Old Havana, just above the Garcia Lorca Theater.

[Castro] Oh yes, the famous theater.

[Regueiro] Yes, but there are plans to close it and we will be out on the street.

[Castro] No. It is going to be repaired.

[Regueiro] Well then.

[Castro] It is not going to be closed; it is going to be repaired, remodeled.

[Regueiro] The lyceum, where we pay 30,000 pesos [interrupted by Castro]

[Castro] Yes, every 3 months.

[Regueiro] Every 3 months.

[Castro] How many students attend these classes?

[Regueiro] Forty-three.

[Castro] This means that each student pays almost 1,000 pesos every 3 months; almost 4,000 pesos a year. What is that? A profit-making company? You probably pay them because they own the place.

[Regueiro] Yes. But the best part is that they have a theater.

[Castro] What theater?

[Regueiro] They have a small theater they call the Alejo Carpentier Hall.

[Castro] Where you study?

[Regueiro] Yes. They built a theater but, despite paying the 30,000 pesos, we cannot dance in that theater.

[Castro] Come again, come again. [laughter] You pay but you cannot dance in that theater?

[Regueiro] We cannot dance in that theater.

[Castro] Do you pay for the use of the theater?

[Regueiro] It is part of the facilities.

[Castro] But you cannot use this theater?

[Regueiro] No, and we cannot dance at the Garcia Lorca Theater. We are forced to look for other places to dance. We have to be asking for favors from the directors. [passage omitted]

[Castro] The truth is that the building that houses the National School of Arts was never really finished. There is a long story behind all this; I doubt if you were born when it all started.

Early in the revolution, we drafted some pretty rather exotic plans for this. However, some differences among the architects, builders, and others developed, and one day they just said that this could not be built. They were totally opposed to this plan. I recall that the area where the building is located was a country club for the bourgeoisie. We gave the land to the school. We wanted the school to be built. However, the problem developed and the plan was never completed. When the same plan was presented at the ministry [not further identified] it was flatly rejected. Later, the building used today to house students was built. Now they are building the School of Music.

I think that to get the School of Arts built we need to appoint a group of architects that will work with the ministry and draft a plan to complete the School of Arts. A group of architects that will study the plan and make their recommendations. It will probably have to be a new type of building. We cannot go back to those days when the buildings were very complicated and difficult to build, as was the case early in the revolution. Then we will have a School of Arts, and this school will have all the facilities it needs, just like the Camilitos have; or like the Lenin schools -- the former vocational schools -- the Che Guevara, and Jose Marti schools had. These were schools big enough for 4,500 students and they were equipped with all they needed. Well, this is part of a long chain of problems.

You have also said that you had to buy from areas that demanded payment in dollars when the same equipment could be bought from Socialist countries. I can see that we have many problems in this area. What we have heard here is only part of the problem. What Balmaceda said -- he complained that the artists do not visit the mountain areas -- is true. I have no doubt of the willingness of the young artists to go where they are needed. I know that much effort has been put into organizing brigades to visit the rural areas, travel on internationalist missions, and visit the Nicaraguan border areas, but we also know that many artists are crazy about going abroad but not too crazy about going to Baracoa, Pinar del Rio, and tour Cuba. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Culture Minister Armando Hart] A big problem we face is precisely strengthening the work of the ISA and the teaching of art. The comrade [not further identified] put it very nicely. She said that this meeting also involved education. I think that the problems in the field of culture demand a search for rapprochement among the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, and Culture Ministry. This is necessary because culture cannot be viewed as a distant phenomenon. Culture is part of the phenomenon of education.

I once told Fernandez [not further identified]: Fernandez, the first goal of education is culture. I am a firm believer that the proper use of our free time is an essential factor in the spiritual development of society. Some of you have mentioned proper use of our free time, but free time used in a cultured manner. We may have made some mistakes, we may have done too much for certain institutions, but what encouraged us? We were encouraged by the fact that we would rather see a young person going to a museum, a library, or a dance instead of going to a beer joint. Mind you, I have nothing against having a beer.

I do think that our free time must be used properly and I think that one of the main roles of culture is to play a part in the use of free time. I think that culture is the backbone of the cardinal problems Fidel mentions when he speaks of moral and ideological incentives. When Comrade Fidel speaks of the moral and ideological incentives, I hear him speak of the problems of culture.

Comrades, I feel, and I think that it has been the same for many of you, that this congress has been very important. I have felt the future -- and you, the youth, are the future -- calling me and demanding of me. At other meetings I have felt that the past was calling me, not this time. This time it is the future calling; calling me to listen to all your problems. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Castro] Many other problems have been brought up here today and no one has commented on them. Perhaps Aldana [Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee] has something to say?

[Aldana] I would like to say that the new and old party members must admit that our party cannot overlook its quota of responsibility for the mistakes, deficiencies, deviations, and inconsistency we find in all that has clearly and frankly been expressed by you. I also feel that the delegates at this congress must realize that the problems expressed are a result of the implementation of mechanisms, distortions, and hairbrained schemes alien to the essence of the cultural efforts. I also feel that in this field there are problems that cannot be blamed on the mechanisms. These are administrative problems.

There is a policy but as a comrade delegate said, a policy is not something that can be rearranged like numbers or percentages. We are not talking about 70 percent of something being national and 30 percent being foreign -- and we must not think of foreign in negative terms. We are talking about quality. We must guard ourselves against harmful pseudo-cultural practices that can be copied, and later demanded by our people. If this should happen, we would be the only ones to blame for poisoning them.

I also wish to state very clearly that even though it is true that the implementation of economic mechanisms in the art sector has not been the best and has led to problems, this does not mean that we cannot find ways to implement economic mechanisns that will respond to the needs of the art sector and help improve its quality. The socialist principle that ensures payment according to quality and quantity can also be implemented in the art sector. Of course, big mistakes can be made, since art is a very broad field and there are certain jobs and activities that cannot be handled in the same way we would handle material production.

We have seen solid measures implemented in the field of material production yet we have also seen these solid measures fail. When these same solid measures were implemented in the art sector they turned out to be a disaster. However, this does not mean that we do not need a policy that will encourage quality and quantity, a policy that will reward those who do more.

Comrades, this is the only way to prevent mediocrity. This equalization, this apparent justice, helps hide mediocrity. Talent, revolutionary conduct, and total devotion for the people must be rewarded. How? In what manner? To what extent? That is the problem we must solve and I think that we can do it based on the experience our country has. There is no need to invent new things. Perhaps a simple idea that at the same time responds to the principle of rewarding for a job well done, can be implemented in the art sector.

In conclusion, I wish to say that all of us who participated in last night's, 4 April, events, were witnesses of what art and culture is all about. Comrade Fidel and the revolutionary art are the only ones that can fill the Revolution Square the way we saw it last night. [applause] I feel that all of us who participated in last night's events are better today than we were before. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Cienfuegos Delegate Raciel Palmero] About a year ago the organization responsible for schools decided to establish schools according to specialties. We understood that if this was done properly it would be good. They said that the schools would be divided according to specialties; for example, one school would specialize in command, another in medicine, biology, and another one would be a naval academy. But what is happening? Well, a Camilito asks himself: I live in Cienfuegos and the Camilo Cienfuegos School in Cienfuegos is a command school. I do not want to go to a command school but would like to be an army engineer. But to do this I would have to go to Santa Clara or some other province. We feel that other methods are needed. [passage omitted]

I have not mentioned this problem because I feel that our schools are not good or because they are experiencing serious problems. I think we are all prone to make mistakes and that we do have questions to ask. Perhaps you may think this is not the right time to discuss this, but I think that since our commander in chief, Comrade Fidel, and other high-ranking Armed Forces officials are here, we should bring them up. Perhaps the future teachers of the fighters of the year 2000 can get some answers.

[Castro] At what age do the students attend the Camilitos school?

[Unidentified speaker] They start their pre-university education in 10th grade.

[Castro] How old would the students be?

[Unidentified speaker] Fourteen going on fifteen.

[Castro] Will that student be mature enough to make such an important decision? Would the Armed Forces benefit from someone who had no other alternative but to become an officer? Even though the Camilitos schools were opened to nurture the Armed Forces and create a vocation among the youth, I do feel that good officers can be trained from among pre-university and science schools. There are youths who were not able to enter a pre-university and had to choose a technical career; there are others who entered a pre-university but went into the Armed Forces instead of going to the university. They did not study. Many of the youths who had no discipline, no training, and not enough maturity went into training and active service and became more disciplined. They did their best and studied.

Many of the youths fell under Order 18 and they used the right this Order gives them -- Order 18 was created only a few years ago -- to study. We did not have the pre-military schools and these were created precisely to give those youths who did not have the opportunity to go to the pre-university, technical school, or university, a second chance. This was done as a reward for those youths and the results have been good.

You know your comrades. Do you feel that they all have a military vocation? You think they all qualify?

[Palmero] I feel that if a youth is in his 12th grade in a military school then he has a military vocation. [passage omitted]

[UJC First Secretary Roberto Robaina] I suggest that we conclude this session by expressing the congress' firm determination to evaluate the possibility and find way for every Cuban youth to serve in the Revolutionary Armed Forces. This will be a task for the youths who will be chosen to head our directorate. We have already expressed our willingness to our party's directorate. [applause]

NEW CASTRO BOOK PUBLISHED FOR STUDY, CONSULTATION

FL201320 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the victory in Playa Giron, the book "On the Correct Road" [Por el Camino Correcto] has appeared on the stands in various places in our country. Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Havana Province, and the scene itself of imperialism's first big defeat in America, were the fitting framework for hundreds of citizens to gather, beginning early in the morning, to acquire the book put out by the Politica publishing house for its Olivo series.

"On the Correct Road" makes available to the public the statements made by our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, concerning the mistakes and negative trends that have arisen in recent years in our society. The statements were made from 19 April 1986 to the recently concluded Fifth UJC Congress. These pages provide valuable material for study and consultation in the historic stage our revolutionary process is undergoing.

VEIGA PRESIDES AT MEETING ON NEW UNION STRUCTURES

FL181207 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Roberto Veiga, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, has presided over a meeting in Ciego de Avila analyzing the new draft structures of the provincial trade union movement, which will fundamentally strengthen grassroots work. While speaking at the event, Veiga referred to the importance of the cadre's integrity and the need for adequate work methods.

BRIEFS

STANDARDIZATION AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH -- Cuba and France signed a new technical cooperation agreement in Havana today. The document refers to technical standardization and the quality of production and services. The agreement was signed by Ramon Darias, minister president of the State Committee for Standardization, and (Bernard Boucet), director general of the French Standardization Association. [Text] [Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 87 FL]

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT OUTLINES RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FL201650 Bridgetown CANA in English 1403 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 20, CANA -- Barbados' 11-month-old Democratic Labour Party (DLP) adminstration, a sometimes strong critic of aspects of American foreign and trade policies, has promised an expansion of ties with the United States, but has warned against over-reliance of the region on Washington.

The government's attitude was set out in a 185-page foreign policy statement -- the first and most detailed declaration of its kind from the government of Prime Minister Errol W. Barrow, which assumed office in general elections last May 28. The statement, titled Diplomacy and Development, acknowledged existence of legitimate American security interests in the area, but warned against the Caribbean being perceived as a threat to these interests.

A negative perception has emerged that the Caribbean Islands constitute a constant threat to the national security interests of the United States, and that the most appropriate response to that threat is, therfore, a military one, said the statement. The Government of Barbados believes that to view the Caribbean nations as a national security threat to the U.S.A. is to completely misunderstand the internal dyanmics of the individual countries and the vitality and resilience of their democratic traditions, the statement added. ...It does serious injustice to the reality of the Caribbean sovereignty and the goal of self-reliant development, the statement continued.

It said that Barbados wanted its relations with the United States to be developed on the basis of enlightened policies which complement its own economic development efforts, rather than on actions that divert scarce resources towards military expenditure.... ...The government is convinced that the best guarantee of peace and prosperity in the region is an independent and self-reliant Caribbean and not one that looks to Washington to solve all its problems... the statement said.

...The Government of Barbados will work at all levels of its relations with the U.S. to consolidate and expand the traditional friendly relationship based on mutual benefit and mutual respect, the statement added.

But the statement repeated criticisms of some areas of American trade and economic policies in the region, including the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), a 12-year trade and investment programme designed to promote the economic development of the region. Barbados believes that there is an urgent need for a total review of the Caribbean Basin Initiative... the statement said, noting that its exclusion of duty free access for certain items, including garments, has been a source of disappointment to the island.

The report further pointed out that Barbados' trade position with the United States is worse now that it was prior to the CBI, with domestic imports down two per cent in 1984, 10.2 per cent in 1985, and a projected 25 per cent in 1986. As far as investments are concerned, the statement noted that only two companies which started operations in Barbados since January 1984, have cited the CBI as a reason for their decision. The CBI was a package intended to promote the economic revitalization and facilitate expansion of economic opportunities in the Caribbean Basin region, through 12-year duty free access to the U.S. market, measures to encourage U.S. business interest to invest in CBI countries, and provisions, upon conclusion of exchange of information agreements, to make conventions in Caribbean destinations eligible for tax deductibility by U.S. citizens, the statement noted.

The dilution of the original proposals, especially the investment and duty-free access of the vital garment sector, seriously undermined the potential benefits of the initiative to Barbados, the statement added.

The statement also covered investment, tourism and technical cooperation aspects of U.S.-Barbados relations.

It described investment as playing a crucial role in the economic relations between the two countries, noting that these are governed by a double taxation treaty, which has attracted more U.S. investments to Barbados, and promoted the island's offshore financial sector.

An allied exchange of information accord provides the framework for the exchange of information to facilitate detection of fraudulent and other criminal activity in the world of finance. One spinoff of that accord has been the islands eligibility to be classified as a domicile for U.S. foreign sales corporations, some 300 of which have already set up here. Further, American taxpayers can now deduct the expenses of attending conventions, business meetings and seminars here, a provision which the report said has been of considerable benefit to Barbados' important tourist industry.

The statement noted that the United States is now the principal source of tourists for Barbados, overtaking Canada in 1981. Visitor arrivals from the U.S. have risen steadily since 1982, and reached nearly 150,000 in 1985, the statement added.

The statement said that Barbados was now trying to encourage Americans to visit the island on a year-round basis rather than only during the cold winter months, the traditional peak season for the island's tourism. With that in mind, Barbados has been targetting special markets, such as senior citizens, professional, religious, student and sports groups.

A 1982 air services agreement between the U.S. and Barbados has helped improve air links between the two countries.

On technical cooperation, the statement noted that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) began operations here in 1972, and has actively helped the island's productive sector, as well as supported projects in education, public health, family planning, and housing. Further U.S. Peace Corps volunteers have worked in agriculture, health and other social services here. There is now technical cooperation with the U.S. in drug interdiction and drug abuse control, the statement added.

Following is the text of that section of the statement dealing with the future strategies in Barbados' relations with the U.S.A.:

At the political level, the Government of Barbados will continue to strengthen the existing friendly relationship with the United States.

It will do so, however, in a manner that does not compromise the sovereignty and independence of Barbados. Moreover, the government is convinced that the best guarantee of peace and prosperity in the region is an independent and self-reliant Caribbean and not one that looks to Washington to solve all its problems.

Likewise, the government considers militarization of the Caribbean and its involvement in the East-West conflict can lead only to greater instability. At the same time, the Government of Barbados recognizes that the U.S. has legitimate security and strategic concerns in the region, and will do nothing to jeopardize those concerns. As was proclaimed back in 1966, Barbados will be friends of all, satellites of none.

It is within this basic conceptual framework that the government will conduct its political relations with the United States.

At the economic level, the government attaches the utmost importance to relations with the United States. The tax regime between the two countries is an important new thrust in this regard.

The U.S. market will continue to be of critical importance for Barbadian exports and goods and services, even if there is substantial recovery in intra-regional trade. The government will, therefore, use its diplomatic resources in concert with other Caribbean countries to try to counteract measures aimed at protecting the U.S. market from Caribbean exports. The government will also work closely with other Caribbean countries and the U.S. Administration and Congress in joint efforts to improve the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Successful and lasting penetration of the U.S. market is not an easy task. It depends not only on competitive prices but on quality, sophisticated marketing, reliable supply capabalities, and a capacity for constant technological innovation. These marketing difficulties are compounded, especially in the case of small exporters, by the complex health and safety regulatory requirements pertaining to the American market, and, as has been noted, by the creation of quota restrictions and other non-tariff barriers in response to domestic protectionist pressures. Nevertheless, success in the U.S. market will be essential if Barbados is to ensure its export competitiveness. And there are clearly several niches in the vast and diverse American market that Barbadian exporters could and should occupy. In the long run, success will depend on the efforts made by private exporters themselves. Nothing can replace that. The government will, however, do all that it appropriately can to assist Barbadian exporters in penetrating the U.S. market.

In view of the general commercial importance that relations with the U.S. have for Barbados, the government will ensure that economic matters receive even greater emphasis than before in respect of the embassy in Washington, consultate-general in New York, and the honorary consultates currently operating in nine American cities. In respect of the promotion of off-shore financial services, the government currently employs an expert in international tax and trade law who will continue to work in close coordination with the embassy and the office of the IDC (Industrial Development Corporation) in New York and the Central Bank to advise the government.

Although the economic and commercial aspects of relations with the U.S. must necessarily be accorded the highest priority for obvious reasons, the government is not unmindful of the increasing importance of cultural relations between the two countries, especially in respect of the large numbers of Barbadians residing or studying in the U.S. and also in respect of the fundamental importance that cultural development plays in the overall life of the nation.

The Barbadian communities in the United States have proved to be highly valuable points of focus for the organization of cultural exchanges and the government is committed to working even closer with those communities so that Americans and Barbadians alike in the U.S. can experience directly this important developing aspect of Barbados. At the same time, the American cultural experience is a rich, vast and varied one, not to be equated merely with popular T.V. shows and fast food. There is a huge reservoir of experience and talent that Barbados can usefully draw on to enrich its own cultural life. The government will, therefore, develop in a more planned and systematic fashion a programme of cultural exchanges to the mutual benefit of both peoples.

In summary, the Government of Barbados will work at all levels of its relations with the U.S. to consolidate and expand the traditional friendly relationship based on mutual benefit and mutual respect.

VII.	WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII.	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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